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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF HOPKINTON,

FROM 1757 TO 1876,

Comprising a Period of One Hundred and Nineteen Years.

PREPARED BY

REV. S. S. GRISWOLD,

AND

*DELIVERED JULY 4TH, 1876.*

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1877.  
WOOD RIVER ADVERTISER PRESS,  
HOPE VALLEY, R. I.



1757.

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# HISTORICAL SKETCH

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From 1757 to 1876, Comprising a Period of 119 years.

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*DELIVERED JULY 4TH, 1876,*

PER VOTE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL,

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HOPE VALLEY, R. I.:  
L. W. A. COLE, JOB PRINTER,  
1877.

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# Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary

OF THE FOURTH OF JULY.

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## PUBLIC RESOLUTION

PASSED BY CONGRESS AND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT,

MARCH 13TH, 1876.

Joint Resolution on the Celebration of the Centennial in the several Counties or Towns.

Be it Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

That it be, and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States, that they assemble in their several counties and towns on the approaching Centennial anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation; and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or manuscript, in the Clerk's office of said county or town, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may there be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first Centennial of their existence.



# President's Proclamation.

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*By the President of the United States.*

## A PROCLAMATION.

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WHEREAS, A joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows :

“Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and the House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching centennial anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence ;” and

WHEREAS, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States,

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundreth.

By the President,

U. S. GRANT.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

# State of Rhode Island &c.

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In General Assembly, January Session, A. D. 1876.

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

ON THE

# *Celebration of the Centennial*

*IN THE SEVERAL CITIES AND TOWNS.*

*Resolved*, The House of Representatives concurring therein, that in accordance with the recommendation of the National Congress, the Governor be requested to invite the people of the several cities and towns of the State to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on that day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation, and to have one copy of said sketch, in print or in manuscript, filed in the clerk's office of said town or city, one copy in the office of the Secretary of State, and one copy in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence; and that the Governor be requested to communicate the invitation forthwith to the several Town and City Councils in the State.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, on the 20th day of April, A. D. 1876.

{ L. S. }

Witness my hand and Seal of the State,  
this 27th day of April, A. D. 1876.

JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN,  
*Secretary of State.*

# State of Rhode Island.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

*Providence, April 27th, 1876.*

*To the Honorable Town Council of Hopkinton,*

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honor herewith to enclose a duly certified copy of a Resolution passed by the General Assembly at its recent Session, requesting me to invite the people of the several towns and cities of the State, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation.

By pursuing the course suggested by the General Assembly, the people of the State will derive an amount of information which will be invaluable to the present generation, as showing the wonderful progress of the several towns and cities since their formation.

It will also be of great value to future generations when the materials for such sketches now accessible will have been lost or destroyed by accident, or become more or less effaced and illegible from time.

Therefore in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly I respectfully and earnestly, through you, invite the people of your town to carry out the contemplated celebration on the 4th day of July next.

HENRY LIPPITT, *Governor.*

# State of Rhode Island &c.

## COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, sc.

At a meeting of the Town Council of Hopkinton, June 5th. A. D. 1876, at the Town Hall.

*Voted*, That the Rev. S. S. Griswold be and is hereby invited to write an historical sketch of this town agreeable to Joint Resolution of Congress of the United States, and Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of this State.

E. R. ALLEN, *Town Clerk*.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &c.. }  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, sc. }

At a meeting of the Town Council of Hopkinton this twelfth day of June, A. D. 1876, at Town Hall, the following Resolution is presented and read :

*Voted*, That the same be and it is hereby adopted :

RESOLVED, That Samuel N. Richmond, William L. Clarke, E. P. Clark, M. D. and John D. Kenyon, M. D., be a committee to make arrangements for a meeting of the inhabitants of this town on the 4th day of July A. D. 1876, or some other day if in their judgment it is better for the purpose of hearing the history of this town (being now one hundred and seventeen years old,) now being written by Rev. S. S. Griswold—to make any alterations if found necessary before it shall be received in this Town, State or Nation, and that they be authorized to draw on the Treasurer of this Town for money necessary to carry out said plan, in a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, (\$300).

E. R. ALLEN, *Town Clerk*.



Hopkinton, June 15th, 1876.

*To the Honorable Town Council of Hopkinton,*

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your vote, under date of June 5th, inviting me to write an historical sketch of this town. In reply, I wish a more competent person had been invited, one of longer acquaintance, by residence, with the history of the town, and in possession of more ample means by which the requisite knowledge might be attained, I also wish that a sufficient length of time could have been given to have secured a more thorough history than the now very limited time will admit.

But, waving further apology I hereby accept your invitation and will endeavor to perform its duties to the best of my ability, and the facilities of time and means at my command.

Respectfully,

S. S. GRISWOLD.





## PREFACE.

In order to give a full history of any country, or place, there must be some means by which the historian can obtain the necessary information. These sources may be legendary, traditional, oral or written. The town of Hopkinton did not supply either of the above facilities, but to limited extent, especially during its first settlement. Hence, that portion of its history cannot be written out in detail.

In preparing the following sketch, I have had under contribution all available means, and plundered from all such resources, *ad libitum et tandem* without stopping to accredit where due.

I however, wish to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered me by the Town Council, the Committee of Arrangements, and the citizens generally, one and all, for aid in preparing the following sketch, hoping that imperfect as it is, it may be read, especially by the youth, with pleasure and profit

S. S. G.

# HISTORICAL SKETCH.

## STATE AND TOWN.

To day is the Centennial anniversary, birthday of this Nation. One hundred years ago to day it proclaimed itself free and independent, and, relying upon the aid of Almighty God, and the justice of its cause it unfurled a national banner pledging an assurance to the nations of the world its capability to maintain its new born nationality. From that day to this 4th of July has ever been observed in commemoration of the Nation's Independence, but never before was the day more pregnant with historic events than to day. Never before were the resources of the nation more developed. To day the grand Exposition at Philadelphia is the centre of the worlds development in all that pertains to true civilization and nobility of manhood. And to make the day more impressively commemorative, the Legislatures of the several States, the National Congress and the proclamation of the President have recommended that historical addresses be prepared and delivered in every county and town of these United States.

"History," says Dr. Arnold "is the biography of a society."—"The society may be a family, a corporation, a State,

several States united by a common policy, religion, race, or civilization, or it may be the whole world; and, in its broadest and absolute meaning, history is the biography of mankind. But of all societies, the State is that which acts most prominently and constantly in directing human affairs. All other social forces, religious, commercial, or literary, and all ideas, arts, sciences, and usages, are easily considered as concentrating in it; and history is, therefore, most frequently conceived with reference to the States—to the acts of governments, and the acts that influence governments—and comprehends the biographies of nations.”

“It is not without reason,” says Rollin “that history has always been considered as the light of ages, the depository of events, the faithful evidence of truth, the source of prudence and good counsel, and the rule of conduct and manners. Confined without it to the bounds of the age and country wherein we live, and shut up within the narrow circle of such branches of knowledge as are peculiar to us, and the limits of our own private reflections, we continue in a kind of infancy, which leaves us strangers to the rest of the world, and profoundly ignorant of all that has preceded, or even now surrounds us.—And yet all we are capable of knowing must be limited to this imperceptible point, unless we call in the study of history to our assistance, which opens to us every age and every country, keeps up a correspondence between us and the great men of antiquity, sets all their actions, all their achievements, virtues and faults before our eyes; and, by the prudent reflections it either presents, or gives us an opportunity of making, soon teaches us to be wise before our time, and is in a manner far superior to all the lessons of the great masters.—It is history which fixes the seal of immortality of actions truly great, and sets a mark of infamy on vices which no after age can ever obliterate.—Thus history, when it is well taught be-

comes a school of morality for all mankind.

It condemns vice, throws off the mask from false virtues, lays open popular errors and prejudices, dispels the delusive charms of riches, and all the vain pomp which dazzles the imagination, and shews, by a thousand examples, that are more availing than all reasonings whatsoever, that nothing is great and commendable but honor and probity." The foregoing exordium is as just as it is eloquent—as opposite as it is complete.—In the galaxy of States, especially of New England, Rhode Island has ever shone with undiminished lustre. Like Bethlehem Ephratah, though little among the thousands of Judah, yet, out of her came forth the ruler: so Rhoda, though she be small among the States, yet, from her, has come forth the Pioneer, a Ruler in civil and religious liberty,—such a Teacher as even the new world was not then prepared to appreciate.

Rhode Island was first settled in 1636. by Roger Williams an exile from Massachusetts. The edict of banishment bears date of September 3rd 1635 and reads as follows—Whereas Mr. Roger Williams, one of the elders of the church in Salem, hath broached and dyvulged dyvers news and dangerous opinions, against the authorities of magistrates, as also writ letters of defamation, both of the magistrates and churches here, and that before any conviction, and yet maintaineth the same without retraction, it is therefore ordered, that the said Mr. Williams shall depart out of this jurisdiccion within six weeks next ensuing, which, if he neglect to perform, it shall be lawful for the Governor, and two of the magistrates, to send him to some place out of this jurisdiccion, not to return any more without license from the Court.

Upon the issuing of this bull, excommunicate by the high Court of Massachusetts, Mr. Williams fled first to Seekonk now Rehoboth, in Plymouth colony:—but being

warned by Governor Winslow that he had "fallen into the edge of his bound," Mr. Williams, after "being sorely tossed for fourteen weeks in a bitter winter season," between Plymouth and Seekonk, left Seekonk, on account of the warning of the Governor, and, exchanging salutations with the Indians embarked in a canoe, and sailed around Fox Point up Providence river, where he landed in the month of May or June 1636. In March 1637 Sachems Canonicius and Miantonomi owners of the land upon which Williams settled conveyed to him by deed the following described tract of land as per copy of said deed as follows.

At Nanhiggansick the 24 of first month, commonly called March, in ye second yeare of our plantation or planting, at Mooshausick or Providence.

Memorandum, that we Canonicius and Miantonomi, the two chief Sachems of Nanhiggansick, having two years since sold unto Roger Williams, ye lands and meadowes, upon the two fresh rivers, called Mooshausick and Wanasquatuckit, doe nowe by these presents, establish and confirm ye bounds of these lands, from ye rivers and fields, Pautuckquit ye great hill of Nolquonekanitt, on ye northwest and the town of Monshapogue on ye west.

As also in consideration of the many kindnesses and services, he hath continually done for us, both with our friends, at Massachusetts, as also at Quinickicut and Apaum of Plymouth, we doe freely give, unto him all the land from those rivers reaching to Pawtuxet river; as also the grass and meadowes upon ye said Pawtuxet river.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

Ye mark of (a bow and arrow) Canonicius.

Ye mark of (an arrow) Miantunmomi.

In Ye presence of

The mark x Sotaash.

The mark x Assotemencits.



Having thus referred as concisely as possible to the original settlement of the State by way of introduction I now pass to the more direct consideration of the subject assigned me, viz. The History of the town of Hopkinton.

Prior to the year 1757 the town of Hopkinton was a constituent part of Westerly. Hence its history to that date will be found in connection with the history of that town; therefore it may be proper in this connection briefly to notice the settlement of Westerly.

In the year 1701 a company of men purchased of the colony of Rhode Island five thousand and three hundred acres of land situated in what are now the towns of Westerly, Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton. The Indian name for this tract of land was Misquamucuck which afterwards became Musquamacott.

The following taken from the records of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, is the grant of the Court, of date 1669. "Bee it therefore enacted by this Assembly, and by the authority thereof that the said inhabitants of Masquamacott being seated, adjoining to Pawcatuck, alais Narragansett or Norrogansitt river on the west part, and boundary of this Collony, and within that part thereof knowne by the name of the King's Province aforesaid, to wit: Mr. John Crandall, Mr. Tobias Sanders, and all such others as now are or hereafter shall be legally admitted as freemen and inhabitants in the said place called Musquamacott, &c., shall be knowne and called by the name of Westerly; and shall be reputed and deemed the fifth towne of this Collony, and shall have, use, and enjoy all such priviledges, and exercise all such methods and formes for the well ordering their town affairs as any other town in this Collony may use and exercise; and they shall have liberty to elect and send two Depntyes, to sitt and act in the General Assemblys of this Collony from time to time, and

are enjoined to choose and send to the General Court of Trialls, one grand jury man, and one for the jury of trials from time to time; and further this Assembly, for their, the said peoples better governing themselves, and such as come among them, and untill his Majestyes pleasure be farther knowne, doe recommend the care and speciall regard or ordering and appoynting Conservattors of the peace among them unto the Governor, Deputy Governor and Assistants of this Collony, as was by the Governor and Councill began in the year 1665, and hath been since continued, desiring it may be still ordered and by the said justices renewed, and as occasion requires compleated and established, as they shall see meett; even to erecting Courts for trial of such small matters as other particular Courts in this Collony may doe in that respect."

In 1685 the King's Court of Commissioners attempted to subvert the colonies, annul their charters, and in order to consummate their act of audacity changed the name of Westerly to Haversham. But the colony of Musquamacott hurled back defiantly in the face of those usurpers, and in due process of time trod the name of Haversham under their feet and inscribed in letters of blood, the name of Westerly on their banners of liberty.

In 1738 the town of Westerly was divided into two townships, Charlestown and Westerly. The town of Richmond was afterwards set off from Charlestown.

In 1757 the northern portion of the town of Westerly was set off and established as the town of Hopkinton in accordance with the provisions in the following act of the General Assembly held at Providence the 14th day of March, 1757.

"An Act for dividing the town of Westerly, and thereof making two distinct townships; one, to retain the name of Westerly, and the other to be designated and known by the name of Hopkinton.

WHEREAS a great number of the inhabitants of the northern part of the town of Westerly, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the said town being upwards of twenty miles in length, they are much aggrieved by reason many of them are obliged to travel some fifteen or sixteen miles, to get an instrument recorded; others, eighteen or twenty miles, when business calls them before the Town Council, or to attend at a Court of Justices, the greater part of the public business being at this day transacted and done in the southern parts of said town; and thereupon prayed that the same may be divided; nature having cut it into two parts, by the large river, called and known by the name of Pawcatuck; and that they may be entitled to equal privileges with the other towns in this colony; on consideration whereof:—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said town of Westerly be, and the same is hereby, made and divided into two distinct and separate towns; and that such part thereof, as lieth to the southward of the aforesaid Pawcatuck river, shall still be, and remain a town, holding its ancient name of Westerly; and all the lands lying to the northward of said river, shall also be, and hereby is erected into and made a town, to be distinguished, called and known by the name of Hopkinton; and the inhabitants thereof shall have, hold and enjoy all and singular, the liberties, privileges and immunities that the other towns in this colony are entitled to; New Shoreham and Jamestown excepted.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the money due unto the town of Westerly, aforesaid, for the Cedar Swamp, shall be legally deemed, both principal and interest, unto those that live on the south side of the aforesaid Pawcatuck river; and they, in return, shall wholly and solely be at the expense of defending said swamp; and the town of

Hopkinton shall not be subject to any costs and charges on that account; that all the town debts (except such as may have lately accrued on account of the swamp,) shall be equally paid by the towns of Westerly and Hopkinton; and all such monies as were due to what, before this act, was the town of Westerly, shall be applied towards paying off said town's debts, except such as are due on account of the swamp.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every of the justices of the peace, that were chosen and appointed such for the town of Westerly, and who live in that part thereof, that is now made Hopkinton, be, and they hereby are, continued in their offices, with full power and ample authority, in every respect as they had, in consequence of their being chosen into and commissioned for said office; and that the eldest of them issue his warrant to call the freemen of said town of Hopkinton to meet together at some convenient place within the same, in order to choose and appoint officers necessary for managing and conducting the prudential affairs of said town.

Pursuant to the above Act of Incorporation, the freemen of said town were convened at the dwelling house of Joshua Clarke, on the 4th day of April 1757, for the purpose of choosing and appointing officers necessary for managing and conducting the prudential affairs of the new town of Hopkinton.

The names of seventy Freemen living on the north side of Paugnituck River, were transferred from the town records of Westerly, to be entered on the about to be records of the new town—Hopkinton. These seventy Freemen were legalized voters (having taken the oath against bribery and corruption in Westerly) and they constituted the first Town meeting of this town.

Their names are as follows:—

George Babcock,	Oliver Babcock,	Benjamin Randal,
Hubbard Burdick,	Joshua Clark,	Daniel McCoon,
John Maxson,	John Lewis,	Thomas Potter,
Nathan Burdick, ✓	Thomas Wells, Jun.,	Peter Crandal,
Samuel Hill,	George Thurston,	Joseph Lawton,
John Lewis,	John Hall,	Elisha Lewis,
Hezekiah Collins,	John Hall, Jun.,	Thomas Wells,
John McCoon, Jun.,	Zaccheus Reynolds,	Edward Wells,
Edward Wells, Jun.,	Ezekiel Burdick, ✓	Joseph Reynolds,
John Maxson,	William Burdick,	Hubbard Burdick, Capt
Joseph Witter,	Hubbard Burdick,	Thomas Foster,
Edward Robinson,	Benjamin Hall,	John Cottrell,
John Witter, Jun.,	Jedediah Davis,	Roger White,
Josiah Hill, Jun.,	John Hill,	Ebenezer Burdick,
Samuel Maxson,	Parsaval Allen,	Ebenezer Hill,
John Burdick, ✓	Zaccheus Pooler,	William Hadfall,
Daniel McCoon, Jun.,	Samuel Brand,	Benjamin Barber,
Jonathan Wells,	John Robinson,	Peter Kinyon,
John Weaver,	Joshua Lanphere,	Ezekiel Hall,
Christopher Willbor,	William Maxson,	Daniel Butler,
Nathan McCoon,	Samuel Larkin,	Samuel Button, Jun.,
Timothy Porter,	Elisha McCoon,	Simeon Perry,
George Potter,	David Hall,	John Larkin, Jun.,
	Benjamin Willbor.	

The above named Freemen were the honored civil founders of this town.

The following taken from the first Record Book of the town, shows the doings of the first town meeting.

At a town meeting held in Hopkinton this fourth day of April in the thirtieth year of his Majesties reign George ye Second King of Great Brittain *Annoque Domini, 1757.*

At the dwelling house of Joshua Clarke in persuance to an Act of the General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island.

Voted, that Mr. George Babcock be Moderator of this town meeting.

Voted, that Simeon Perry be Town Clerk and is engaged.



Voted, that the men whose names are next after written be admitted Freemen of this town and are allowed to give their votes for town officers who have taken the oath against the bribery and corruption prescribed by law (viz.) Samuel Brown, Dan Bowen, Nathaniel Wells, Walter Worden, William Thurston, Joseph Wells, Joseph McCoon, Elnathan Wells, Benjamin Wilbour, Cyrus Button, Jonathan Lankford, John Brown Jun.

Voted, that Cap'n John Maxson be 1st; Mr. George Babcock, 2d; Esq. Daniel McCoon, 3d; Cap'n Zaccheus Reynolds, 4th; Mr. Hezekiah Collins, 5th; and Simeon Perry, the 6th; Town Councilmen, all engaged.

Voted, that Maj. Joshua Clarke be Town Treasurer, engaged.

Voted, that Mr. Nathan Burdick be Town Sargent, engaged.

Voted, that Daniel McCoon Jun. & Ebenezer Burdick be the Constables, engaged.

Voted, that Hezekiah Collins & Edward Robinson be chosen Oversears of the poor and are engaged.

Voted, that John Maxson Jun. Joshua Clarke and Lawton Palmer be Ratemaker, all engaged.

Voted, that Mr. Edward Wells be Sealer of Weights and Measures, Packer, &c. and is engaged.

Voted, that Cap'n John Maxson, Esq. Daniel McCoon, and Benj. Willbour be Viewers of freehold Estates and all engaged but Willbour.

Voted, that Mr. Nathan Burdick, Mr. John Burdick, Mr. William Maxson, Mr. Joshua Lanphere, Mr. John Weaver, and Mr. William Burdick, be chosen Supervisors of Highway and fence Viewers and all engaged, but William Burdick.

Voted, that Mr. Benjamin Barber be Pound Keeper and engaged.

Voted, that John Maxson Jun. and Simeon Perry be sur-

veyors, and are engaged.

Voted, that Edward Wells and Samuel Maxson be chosen Viewers of lumber, only Wells is engaged, Maxson not engaged.

Voted, that the next town meeting shall be held at the dwelling house of Jedediah Davises. ✓

Voted, that Mr. George Babcock, Mr. Joshua Clarke and Mr. Hezekiah Collins be appointed a committee to treat with the town of Westerly, respecting the town debts before divided, and settle the same according to the Act of the General Assembly, and make return as soon as conveniently they can.

Voted, that this town meeting be adjourned to the twentieth day of April, instant, to the dwelling house of Jedediah Davises, at 10 of the clock in the forenoon, in order to choose their Deputies and put in their proxy votes for general officers.

Propounded in order to be made free of the town, &c., (viz.) Timothy Peckham, Daniel Butler, Jun., John Stanberry, Eba Crandall, Jun., David Tanner, Izrael Brumbley, Benjamin Austin, Elias Lewis, Caleb Wells and Nathan Kinyon."

"At a town meeting held in Hopkinton, in Kings county, in the Colony of Rhode Island, the twentieth day of April in the thirtieth year of he Majesties reign, *Annoque Domini*, 1757, by adjournment at the dwelling house of Mr. Jedediah Davises. ✓

Voted, that Benjamin Randal, Jun., Joshua Maxson and Ephraim Hall be admitted free of this town, who have taken the oath against bribery prescribed by law.

Voted, that Edward Wells be appointed at the expense of the town to make two jury boxes.

Voted, that Thos. Wait be admitted free of this town.

Voted, that Mr. Joshua Clarke, Mr. Hezekiah Collins be the Deputies and Representatives for this town, to sitt in the General Assembly, and Election at Newport of the First Wednesday in May, next.

Voted, that Mr. Joshua Clarke the first Deputy, be appointed to carry their town's proxy votes and deliver them to the Governor in open assembly, the first Wednesday in May, next.

Voted, that Ebenezer Burdick have an order to the Town Treasurer for the sum of six pounds, old tenor, for his service in warning in the town the fourth of April, 1757.

The following men desire to be propounded, (viz.) Rowland Robinson, William McCoon, Richmond Reynolds, Joseph Reynolds, Jun., Joseph Greene, Benj. Robbins, Stephen Allen, Charles Bowen, William Steward, Jun., John Latham.

Voted, that this town meeting be dissolved.

John Burdick desires to be propounded.

The above is a true copy of the minntes of the first and second town meetings held in this town. At the next town meeting which occurred on the 7th day of June following a vote was passed somewhat significant of an economy which might not be inapplicable to the present day.

Voted that Thomas Potter the Town Treasurer be appointed to hire as much money as he thinks necessary for to pay the towns present necessities as cheap as he can at the town's expense.

For the first five years the name of the Town Clerk was not signed to the records, the first time it appears as attesting the recorded minntes, was in August 31st, 1762, as follows: Pr Joshua Clarke, Town Clarke.

The loyalty and bravery of the sons of Hopkinton were developed during the first year of its existence; the following vote taken from the minutes of a town meeting held June

7th, 1757, shows that Hopkinton bore a part in the French and Indian war.

Voted, that Nathan Burdick and Simeon Perry be appointed a committee to settle the affair with Cap'n John Coon with respect to the fines where he hath impressed or drawn men to go in the expedition against Crown Point, and report at the next town meeting.

From a minute found in the town record under date of July 14th, Anno Domini, 1757, we learn that the town was not unmindful of its tax paying citizens who are unfortunate, or in ill health.

Voted, that David Lewis shall not be rated either in the colony rate or town rate so long as he remains in a poor state of health as he seems to be now in.

## SECTION 2.

### ABORIGINES.

Before proceeding farther with the incipient steps of the settlement of the Town, it may be pertinent to recur briefly to the aborigines, who once roamed the forests of the now open meadows, cultivated farms, and manufacturing villages of the present day.

But few of this Assembly perhaps, have ever seen even one of those red men of the forest. In their physique, they were a stalwart, noble race, possessing many admirable traits of character, savages though they were, all American history would be incomplete without recognizing them.

The Aborigines of this country were mostly of a roving character. They existed in tribes who maintained a kind of separate independency occupying at least temporarily a certain tract of country. Such tracts were held in common for hunting, fishing, and rude planting.

The red man knew little or nothing of personal property in lands. Only Sagamores, Sachems, Chiefs and leading Captains could subscribe names and give titles. The Indians chief employment, and highest glory was war. Development, progress towards a higher type of manhood, seemed not inherent within him.



Through the centuries of history, though unimpeded by foreign powers, and surrounded by all natural resources and opportunities, he utterly failed to reveal any respectable or tolerable type of civilization. Of the religion of the aborigines, Roger Williams says "they have plenty of gods or divine powers: The sun, moon, fire, water, earth, the deere, the beare, &c." "I brought home lately from the Nanhigonsicks, (Narragansetts) the names of thirty-eight of their gods" They were spiritualists in the fullest sense. They had no images. In every tree, shrub, plant, in water, air, clouds, the planets, in everything they located a Deity.

According to their tradition Kautantowit their chief god made the first human pair from a stone, but, not liking them destroyed them, and made a second pair from a tree, from which last pair all mankind have descended.

The Pequots believe in two great gods, Kitchtan, the author of good, and Hobamocho the author of evil.

## SECTION 3.

### SETTLED BY THE WHITES.

“From tradition and family records (according to the Rev. F. Denison) we learn that the first white man who settled in the town of Westerly (which then embraced the now town of Hopkinton, was John Babcock, who, to enjoy the sweet liberty and peace of pure love with her who had deserved and won his heart—Miss Mary Lawton—eloped from Newport with his fair bride in an open boat, braved the tossing sea, passed along the coast, reached the mouth of the Pawcatuck river, ascended the stream, landed among the painted red men, and, by their consent, pitched his cabin in the forest near Mastuxet brook, and finally became a large land holder as well as the head of a numerous and worthy family.”

Such was love and its romance in that age, and such will it ever be in any age.

The first settler in this town was Daniel Lewis about the year 1704, He built his house on the lot now owned by the Joint Districts Nos. 2 & 4 of Hopkinton and 8 of Westerly and now occupied by the school house of the graded schools in that Joint District It is also known as the Lucy Maxson land. An excavation in the ground now marks the spot where his house stood. Says S. in his Ashaway letter “it is

a singular fact that the citizens of this community (Hopkinton) in selecting a site for the first Academy, in the town were so united as to at once choose the lot that Daniel Lewis selected for his first house to stand upon. The old well from which he drew water, not many rods from his house is still in use.

This Daniel Lewis was the son of John Lewis, who came from England, in company with his four brothers, at the first settlement of this county, and settled not far from the present residence of John H. Cross, Esq., Westerly. His brothers located themselves near Boston Mass. John had seven sons. Daniel found his home in Hopkinton, Israel at Long Island, Jonathan at Richmond in this State, another at Exeter, while several remained with their father at Westerly. John, the father of these seven sons died at Pawcatuck, and was buried just below the village of Westerly, near the road leading to Watch Hill.

Daniel Lewis the first settler in that part of Hopkinton was a fuller by trade and carried on his business where is now the Laurel Dale mill, or very near there. He erected the first dam there, and for many years carried on a thriving business for the times. He was a firm go ahead man, honest in every particular and when once set upon what he considered to be right was immutably fixed. He had three sons, John, Jonathan and Daniel and three daughters Mary, Dorcas and Hamah. Mr. Lewis was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church in Hopkinton and died in 1717, not far from fifty years of age.

The following is a verbatim extract from the preamble of his will:

"In the name of God, amen. I, Daniel Lewis, in the Colony of Rhode Island, fuller, being sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and

knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament—that is to say principal and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body I commend to the earth, to be buried in a decent christian burial at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting that at the general resurrection I shall receive it by the mighty power of God.

As touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, bequeathe," &c., &c.

Then follows the several items of bequest, giving John the property at Laurel Dale, and Daniel a farm in the Tomaquag Valley. His grave and the grave of his wife and some of the children may be seen not far from the road about half way from the Babcock house, (on the site of which the residence of Horace L. Crandall now [1876] stands) to the late residence of Deacon Elnathan W. Babcock.

Sacred to the memory of this ancient family, should preserve these graves from being desecrated by the plough-share of time.

Daniel Lewis 2d, cultivated his little farm on the Tomaquag, built a dam and erected a mill for fulling cloth. The old mill is not to be seen but a part of the dam remains. He had three sons Daniel, Jonathan and Maxson.

Daniel Lewis 3d, settled on the Tomaquag about 20 rods from the old mill above mentioned. He was by trade a carpenter and he had two sons Daniel and Christopher. Daniel lived and died at his late residence now (1876) owned by Thomas M. Clarke who married his daughter Ann. Christopher held many important offices in the town one of which was that of Town Clerk, which office he held for over forty years. He lived and died in the house now owned by the widow of his late deceased son, Dea. Nathan K. Lewis. These brothers, Daniel and Christopher, were

prominent members of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church in Hopkinton, and for many years filled with great credit to themselves, and greater benefit to the church, the office of Deacons. They now rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

The late Dr. Daniel Lewis was a great, great grandson of the old settler Daniel Lewis, and his son Dr. James N. Lewis of Wyoming, is the great, great, great grandson of the original settlers.

In 1774, Hopkinton had two hundred and ninety-nine families; common among whom were the names of Wells, Clarke, Lewis, Babcock, Maxson, Burdick and Crandall.



## SECTION 4.

### DELUSIONS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

The infallibility of reasons has not as yet attained perfection. Man has imagination as well as reason, and the former often usurps the place of the latter. Delusions and superstitions are not confined to any age or people. Necromancy, demonism and spiritualism have appeared more or less in the history of the world.

“The history of any Township” (says Rev. T. Denison) “would be devoid both of a portion of its vital facts and of its instructive lessons, if no mention were made of the phantasies and follies, and superstitions and delusions of the people.” It is a great mistake to suppose that delusions and superstitions are confined or are even most general in the domain of religion; they have entered into all human affairs. Even Luther, the great reformer said, “experience has proved the toad to be endowed with valuable qualities. If you run a stick through three toads, and, after having dried them in the sun, apply them to any pestilent tumor, they draw out all the poison, and the malady will disappear. King James believed in witchcraft; and the Puritans cast out devils by hanging. Thousands have asserted that they have seen ghosts, been ridden by witches, and have had their fortunes

told. Multitudes have dug for water at the tipping of a willow stick, or dug for gold and hidden treasures at the pointing of a hard branch of a divining rod; as later victims of credulity have gaped for revelations from the raps and tips of tables. Hopkinton was not an exception.

GRANNY MOTT.—Near 1740, there lived in Hopkinton an old woman called Granny Mott, who had the reputation of being a witch. She could ride a smooth shod horse upon the ice with the greatest speed. She once came to the house of Thomas Potter to procure work, Mr. Potter's son Stephen was playing about the floor when one of the older children whispered to him to stick an awl in the old woman's chair. She sat immovable for hours until the family became convinced that she was a witch. Ever after when she visited the house she would stand, or sit upon a chest or bed, however many chairs might be near. One of her neighbors was much annoyed by a flock of heath hens, the head one of which would fly close around him and bid defiance to his oft repeated shots, cutting a silver button from his coat he loaded his gun with it, he fired at the troublesome bird and killed it, he soon heard that Granny Mott was sick unto death; and as her daughter who attended her refused all assistance in preparing the body for burial, (for she died) it was believed that she was shot with the silver button in the person of that bird.

MCDANIEL.—In Hopkinton lived a little, old Negroman, jet black, with fierce looking eyes, named James McDaniel, his cocked hat, glaring eyes, and daring manner, won for him the reputation of kinship to the monarch of darkness. When Amos Langworthy Jun., brought home his bride to his father's, McDaniel came and wished to fiddle, but the father, Amos Langworthy, Sen., refused, as it was against his principle to have fiddling in his house. The old negro was enraged and prophesied that he would yet be obliged to

have fiddling under his roof. Shortly Mr. Langworthy's daughter, Amy, was seized with fits that nothing would allay but music; at the sound of the viol she would recover, and then dance for hours. Many came to witness the matter, and it was believed that Miss Langworthy was bewitched by McDaniel. At last Mr. Langworthy hired a fiddler by the month, as his daughter had fits nearly every evening, until she was visited by a Mr. Mason, of Connecticut, who laid his hands upon her and prayed; after which she had no fits; but she never fully recovered. Other spirits visited Mr. Langworthy's dwelling, entering locked rooms, deranging and polluting the dishes and milk pans. On one occasion when riding in great haste for a physician Mr. L. dismounted to open the bars, and on remounting found his bridle reins tied in knots.

**THE SHAKERS.**—The first shakers came to this country from England in 1774, and established themselves in the state of New York. Towards the close of the century a few were found in Hopkinton and its vicinity. The principle person among them was Joshua Birch, a man of property who lived in the house formerly owned by Mr. Peleg Clarke, Sen., but now by his son Alfred Clarke, near Clarke's Falls then known as the Birchen Mills. This large house afforded accommodations for the acts of devotion to this dancing and shaking sect. On a certain occasion Mrs. Birch in a transport of religious excitement threw her necklace of gold upon the floor when the feet of the pious dancers soon reduced it to powder.

**BELDENITES.**—About the year 1810 or 12, there lived a man in this town by the name of John Belden who became the leader of a sect called Beldenites, among their preachers, one Morse became quite conspicuous; and hence this fanatical sect were called Morseites, and his name was frequently embodied in their psalmody as in the following stanza:

“Ye Morseites of Hopkinton,  
Keep your armor bright;  
Ye Morseites of Hopkinton,  
Make ready for the fight.

This sect held their meetings at the residences of Benjamin Kenyon, Libbeus Coon and Abel Tanner. They practiced baptism and called themselves christians. These fanatics might have been called very properly religious gymnasts, for in their acts of religious worship, they ran around the chimney, dancing, barking, hooting, leaping, and shouting, sometimes they ran like quadrupeds upon their hands and toes. The families were very affectionate in their devotional exercises, practicing what they called the Holy Ghost kiss. One evening at Mr. Kenyon's house after Mr. Morse had preached, a Mr. Palmer arose and made a very and explicit confession of his numerous evil ways, whereupon Mrs. Kenyon who was sick in her bed arose in her night clothes, and, pressing through the crowd, embraced and kissed Mr. Palmer, evidently with much affection, and then fell down and prayed in her *deshabille* as she was. Some persons lost their strength and fell upon the floor. One woman after falling commenced whirling around on her hip, her clothes and loose hair flying horizontally. At the close of their meetings they usually went from house to house, rousing the people from their slumbers, warning them to flee from the wrath to come. Their excesses and their libertinism proved their ruin, and about the year 1815 or 16, they struck their tent and emigrated to Ohio.

Many houses in Hopkinton were haunted by spirits from the other world or the vasty deep, strange noises were heard, lights of various hues were seen, windows were illuminated, cannon balls were heard rolling across the floor, moaning cries were heard in the air, and many significant warnings of death were given; and maidens practiced various incantations in order to discover who their lovers and future hus-

bands were to be. But the following manifestations of Satan in 'Squire Clarke's family, of Westerly, struck terror throughout Hopkinton; and for years put a stop to incantations and bewilderments. This singular circumstance must be given in the language of Deacon William H. Potter of Groton, Conn., as communicated by him to the Narragansett Weekly, in November, 1860. During the Revolutionary War, Hannah Maxson and Comfort Cottrell, two girls then staying at the house of Esquire Clarke, of Westerly, were trying their fortunes and endeavoring to bring their beaux, by throwing each, her ball of yarn into the well, and winding them off while they severally repeated a verse from the Scriptures, backwards. They completed their charm about dusk, and went to the front door of the house, and were there standing, awaiting the arrival of their sweet-hearts, or the result of their incantations, possibly a little conscience smitten at their abuse of the verse of Scripture, but still in high spirits and bent on an innocent frolic. Mrs. Clark, the wife of the 'Squire was sick, in a bed in one of the rooms. But while the thoughtless girls were standing in suspense, but in high glee, lo, they both saw a monster figure coming up the road. It was some eight or ten feet high, and marched with a stately step, but with eyes, as they said, "as big as saucers" and breathing flames from his distended jaws. They saw it turn from the street and approach the house. In consternation, they fled frantically, and with loud screams, into the room where Mrs. Clark lay, and threw themselves upon the bed behind the sick woman, more dead than alive, Esquire Clark, who was a pious man, and not easily frightened, came in at the back door the moment the monster had mounted the front door step, and was glaring steadily into the house through the panes of glass over the front door. The steady, unmistakable gaze of the demon, for such they believed him to be, convinced Mr. Clark at once that spirit-



ual weapons were alone adequate to combat such an adversary. He immediately went to prayer, and the devil meantime, left, never again reappearing to trouble the good man's house, or the terror stricken girls.

The explanation of this mysterious affair was not permitted to be made known, for at least seventy years, and not till all the parties and their cotemporaries had passed away, a Mr. Daniel Rogers of Newport was the author of this deception being a great lover of fun.

## SECTION 5.

### AMUSEMENT.

Amusements are as old as time, and almost as universally diffused as light. All nations, both savage and civilized have their amusements; amusements peculiar to themselves. The pursuit of amusements is the business of childhood, and childhood when grown up seldom loses its relish for them.

The first settlers of Hopkinton, puritanical, though they were in many things, had their amusements. Muster or training days were special seasons of amusement and recreation, at which business was generally suspended, and both old and young went to see the trainers, to hear the fife and the drum, and to feast on molasses candy and gingerbread. General or regimental and brigade trainings would call together a large portion of the population for miles around. On these occasions all, with scarcely an exception, imbibed freely cider, rum and cherry brandy, until story telling and social hilarity became general. Temperance consisted in not getting drunk, but a little boozy. Stated holidays were special seasons of merry making. In addition to these, the young people would have huskings, bush cuts, quiltings, spinning bees, and apple cuts. At all these there was some work and a good deal of fun, much of story telling, of love making, singing and joking; usually closing with fiddling and dancing. Courting, wooing and marrying were made special occasions for mirthfulness and hilarity. Running around the chimney to kiss or be kissed as you passed the threshold of every door was common to all household entertainments.

## SECTION 6.

### CIVIL HISTORY.

Containing extracts from the town records. I here insert a list of the names of the Moderators, Town Clerks, Town Treasurers, Deputies, Senators and Representatives of the town, from its organization in 1757, to 1876 a period of 119 years. The list is I believe correct, yet there may be a few errors, for it required both time and patience, to read up the records for nearly one and a quarter century. For the first fifty years (more or less) from four to six or more town meetings were held one month. Hence there will appear in the list the names of several Moderators, during the same year.

DATE,	MODERATOR.	TOWN CLERK.	TOWN TREASURER.
1757	George Babcock, Daniel McCoon,	Simeon Perry, " "	Joshua Clarke, Thomas Potter,
1758	George Babcock, Daniel McCoon,	" " " "	" " " "
1759	George Babcock,	" "	" "
1760	" "	Joshua Clarke,	" "
	Benj. Randall	" "	" "
1761	" "	" "	" "
1762	George Babcock, Benj. Randall,	" " " "	" " " "
1763	George Babcock,	" "	" "
1764	Hezekiah Collins, George Babcock, Benj. Randall,	" " " " " "	" " " " " "

DATE.	MODERATOR.	TOWN CLERK.	TOWN TREASURER.
1764	George Babcock, Benj. Randall,	Joshua Clarke, " "	Thomas Potter, " "
1765	George Babcock, Hezekiah Collins,	" "	" "
1766	George Babcock,	" "	" "
1767	Thomas Wells,	" "	Joshua Clarke,
1768	" "	John Maxson,	" "
1769	" "	" "	" "
	Joshua Clarke,	" "	" "
1770	Thomas Wells, Joshua Clarke,	" "	" "
1771	" "	" "	" "
	Daniel Coon,	" "	" "
1772	Joshua Clarke, Nathan Burdick,	" "	" "
1773	Joshua Clarke,	" "	" "
1774	" "	Abel Tanner	" "
1775	" "	" "	" "
1776	Thomas Wells	" "	" "
1777	Joshua Clarke	" "	" "
1778	" "	" "	" "
	Thomas Wells	" "	" "
1779	" "	" "	" "
1780	" "	" "	" "
1781	" "	" "	" "
1782	" "	" "	Joseph Witter, " " " "
	Jesse Maxson, Thomas Wells,	" "	" "
1783	John Coon,	" "	Joseph Thurston,
1784	Edward Wells,	" "	" "
1785	Thomas Wells,	" "	" "
1786	" "	" "	" "
	Mathew Maxson, John Coon,	" "	" "
1787	Joseph Collins,	Caleb Potter,	" "
1788	Samuel Babcock,	" "	" "
1789	" "	" "	" "
1790	Thomas Wells,	" "	" "
1791	Samuel Babcock	" "	" "
1792	" "	" "	" "
1793	" "	" "	" "
1794	" "	" "	" "
1795	" "	" "	" "
1796	Moses Barber,	" "	" "
1797	Jesse Maxson,	" "	" "
1798	" "	" "	Hezekiah Babcock,
1799	" "	" "	" "
1800	" "	" "	" "
1801	" "	" "	" "

DATE.	MODERATOR.	TOWN CLERK.	TOWN TREASURER.
1802	Jesse Maxson,	Caleb Potter,	Hezekiah Babcock,
1803	Dr. Wm. Wilbur,	" "	John Wilbur,
1804	" "	" "	Edward Wells,
1805	" "	" "	Edward S. Wells,
1806	" "	" "	Rand'll Wells, Esq
1807	Samuel Peckham, Esq.	" "	" "
1808	Daniel Babcock,	" "	" "
1809	Wm. Wilbur,	" "	" "
1810	" "	" "	" "
1811	" "	" "	" "
1812	" "	" "	George Thurston,
1813	Dea. Daniel Babcock,	" "	Gee. Thurston, Jr
1814	" "	" "	" "
1815	" "	" "	" "
1816	Daniel Babcock, Esq.	" "	" "
1817	" "	" "	" "
1818	" "	Christopher C. Lewis,	" "
1819	" "	" "	" "
1820	" "	" "	" "
1821	" "	" "	" "
1822	" "	" "	" "
1823	" "	" "	" "
1824	" "	" "	" "
1825	" "	" "	" "
1826	" "	" "	" "
1827	" "	" "	" "
1828	Jeremiah Thurston,	" "	Jeremiah Thurston,
1829	" "	" "	" "
1830	Nathan Lillibridge,	" "	Henry M. Wells,
1831	Edward Barber,	" "	" "
1832	" "	" "	Jesse Brown,
1833	Benjamin Thurston,	" "	" "
1834	" "	" "	" "
1835	" "	" "	" "
1836	" "	" "	" "
1837	" "	" "	" "
1838	" "	" "	" "
1839	" "	" "	" "
1840	" "	" "	" "
1841	" "	" "	" "
1842	" "	" "	" "
1843	" "	" "	Benj. B. Thurston,
1844	Elnathan Babcock,	" "	" "
1845	" "	" "	" "
1846	" "	" "	" "
1847	" "	" "	" "
1848	Albert Witter,	" "	Charles Noyes
1849	Joseph Brightman,	" "	" "
1850	Joseph T. Barber	" "	" "



DATE.	MODERATOR.	TOWN CLERK.	TOWN TREASURER.
1851	Benj. Thurston,	Christopher C. Lewis,	Charles Noyes,
1852	Nathan K. Lewis,	" "	" "
1853	" "	" "	" "
1854	George H. Olney,	" "	" "
1855	" "	" "	" "
1856	" "	" "	" "
1857	" "	" "	" "
1858	" "	Henry Whipple,	" "
1859	" "	" "	" "
1860	" "	" "	" "
1861	" "	" "	" "
1862	" "	" "	" "
1863	Oliver B. Irish,	" "	John S. Champlin,
1864	" "	" "	" "
1865	" "	" "	" "
1866	William L. Clarke,	" "	" "
1867	George H. Olney,	Edwin R. Allen	" "
1868	George H. Olney,	" "	" "
1869	" "	" "	" "
1870	" "	" "	" "
1871	Sands C. Carr,	" "	" "
1872	" "	" "	" "
1873	Nathan L. Richmond,	" "	" "
1874	" "	" "	" "
1875	S. S. Griswold,	" "	" "
1876	" "	" "	" "

DEPUTIES.—The town of Hopkinton was first represented in the General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations held at Newport the first Wednesday in May, 1757, and the first Deputies to that body from this Town, were Major Joshua Clarke and Mr. Hezekiah Collins.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins was Governor, and the Hon. John Gardner was Deputy Governor.

List of the names of Deputies, Senators and Representatives to the General Assembly from 1757 to 1876.

1757 Major Joshua Clarke, Mr. Hezekiah Collins.	1761 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Capt. Edward Wells, Jun.
1758 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Capt. Edward Wells, Jun.	1762 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Mr. John Maxson.
1759 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Capt. Edward wells, Jun.	1763 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Mr. John Maxson, Jun.
1760 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Capt. Edward Wells, Jun.	1764 Maj. Joshua Clarke, Mr. John Maxson.

- 1765 Maj. Joshua Clarke,  
Mr. John Maxson.
- 1766 Maj. Joshua Clarke,  
Mr. John Maxson.
- 1767 Capt. Edward Wells,  
Mr. James Rholes.
- 1768 Capt. Edward Wells,  
Mr. Lawton Palmer.
- 1769 Mr. Thomas Wells, Jun.  
Mr. Abel Tanner.
- 1770 Mr. Thomas Wells, Jun.  
Capt. Abel Tanner.
- 1771 Mr. Thomas Wells, Jun.  
Capt. Abel Tanner.
- 1772 Mr. Thomas Wells, Jun.  
Capt. Abel Tanner.
- 1773 Mr. Zaccheus Reynolds,  
Mr. Jesse Maxson.
- 1774 Mr. Thomas Wells, Jun.  
Mr. Jesse Maxson.
- 1775 Capt. Abel Tanner,  
Mr. Thomas Wells, 3d
- 1776 Mr. John Larkin,  
Mr. Thomas Wells.
- 1777 Thomas Wells, Esq.  
Mr. Edward Wells.
- 1778 Thomas Wells, Esq.  
George Thurston, Esq.
- 1779 Mr. Abel Tanner,  
Jesse Maxson, Esq.
- 1780 Abel Tauner, Esq.  
Mr. William Coon.
- 1781 George Thurston, Esq.  
Mr. Samuel Babcock.
- 1782 Abel Tanner, Esq.  
George Thurston, Esq.
- 1783 Abel Tanner, Esq.  
George Thurston, Esq.
- 1784 Mr. Oliver Davis,  
Mr. John Brown.
- 1785 Mr. Oliver Davis,  
Mr. Thomas Wells, 2d.
- 1786 Abel Tanner, Esq.  
Thomas Wells, Esq.
- 1787 Abel Tanner, Esq.  
Thomas Wells, 2d.
- 1788 David Nichols, Esq.  
Mr. Ross Ceon.
- 1789 David Nichols, Esq.  
George Thurston, Esq.
- 1790 George Thurston, Esq.  
Mr. Oliver Davis.
- 1791 George Thurston, Esq.  
Mr. Oliver Davis.
- 1792 George Thurston, Esq.  
Moses Barber, Esq.
- 1793 George Thurston, Esq.  
Moses Barber, Esq.
- 1794 George Thurston, Esq.  
Moses Barber, Esq.
- 1795 George Thurston, Esq.  
Moses Barber, Esq.
- 1796 George Thurston,  
Oliver Davis.
- 1797 James Wells, Jun.  
Hezekiah Babcock.
- 1798 Capt. James Wells,  
Hezekiah Babcock, Jun.
- 1799 Capt. James Wells,  
Maj. Jeremiah Thurston.
- 1800 Capt. James Wells,  
Col. Jeremiah Thurston.
- 1801 Hezekiah Babcock,  
Jeremiah Thurston, 2d.
- 1802 Hezekiah Babcock,  
Col. Jeremiah Thurston.
- 1803 Samuel Peckham, Esq.  
Dr. Amos Collins,
- 1804 Samuel Peckham, Esq.  
Dr. Amos Collins.
- 1805 Dr. Amos Collins,  
Daniel Babcock, Esq.
- 1806 Amos Collins, Esq.  
Randall Wells, Esq.
- 1807 Dr. Amos Collins,  
Randall Wells, Esq.
- 1808 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq.  
Capt. James Wells, Jun.

1809 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Dea. Alpheus Burdick.	1826 Edward Barber Esq. Elnathan W. Babcock.
1810 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Capt. James Wells.	1827 Edward Barber, Elnathan W. Babcock.
1811 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Capt. James Wells.	1828 Edward Barber, Jonathan N. Hazard.
1812 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Capt. James Wells.	1829 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Elnathan W. Babcock.
1813 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Capt. James Wells.	1830 Elnathan W. Babcock, Josiah Witter.
1814 Col. Jeremiah Thurston, Capt. James Wells.	1831 Gorton W. Arnold, Benjamin B. Thurston.
1815 Col. Jeremiah Thurston. Hezekiah Babcock.	1832 Benjamin B. Thurston, Elnathan W. Babcock.
1816 Capt. James Wells, Col. Edward Barber.	1833 Benjamin B. Thurston, Elnathan W. Babcock.
1817 Gov. Jeremiah Thurston, Col. Edward Barber.	1834 Benjamin B. Thurston, Gorton W. Arnold.
1818 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Col. Edward Barber.	1835 Benjamin B. Thurston, Gorton W. Arnold.
1819 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Col. Edward Barber.	1836 Benjamin B. Thurston, Dr. Joseph D. Kenyon.
1820 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Col. Edward Barber.	1837 Henry M. Wells, Edward Barber.
1821 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Col. Edward Barber.	1838 Henry M. Wells, Edward Barber.
1822 Jeremiah Thurston, Esq. Col. Edward Barber.	1839 Henry M. Wells, Edward Barber.
1823 Jeremiah Thurston, Edward Barber.	1840 Edward Barber, Joseph T. Barber.
1824 Jeremiah Thurston, Edward Barber.	1841 Horace Thurston, Edward Barber
1825 Daniel Babcock, Esq. Edward Barber.	1842 Elnathan W. Babcock, Joseph T. Barber.

In 1841, Benjamin B. Thurston and Edward Barber were elected delegates to attend a Convention to be holden at Providence, on the first Monday in November, next, to frame a new Constitution for this State, pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly, passed at their January Session, 1841.

Edward Barber and John H. Wells were elected Delegates to attend the above named Convention, which was adjourned to meet at Newport on the second Monday of September, next.

The new Constitution of the State having been adopted, (1843,) the town now elects a Senator and Representatives as follows, the first named being the Senator.

1843 Josiah W. Langworthy, Joseph T. Barber.	1860 Samuel N. Richmond, Thomas M. Clarke.
1844 George Irish, Joseph T. Barber.	1861 Thomas T. Barber, Jonathan Larkin.
1845 George Irish, Joseph T. Barber.	1862 Thomas T. Barber, Sands C. Carr,
1846 George W. Holdredge, Gorton W. Arnold.	1863 Thomas T. Barber, Sands C. Carr.
1847 George W. Holdredge, Joseph T. Barber.	1864 Thomas T. Barber, Thomas M. Clarke.
1848 George W. Holdredge, Joseph T. Barber.	1865 William R. Greene, William L. Clarke.
1849 Isaac Cundall, John M. Barber.	1866 William R. Greene, William L. Clarke.
1850 John S. Champlin, Welcome Collins,	1867 Charles Noyes, Samuel N. Richmond.
1851 John S. Champlin, Welcome Collins.	1868 Charles Noyes, Samuel N. Richmond.
1852 John S. Champlin, George W. Holdredge.	1869 George W. Taylor, George H. Olney.
1853 John S. Champlin, Jonathan R. Wells.	1870 George W. Taylor, George H. Olney.
1854 John S. Champlin, Harris Lanphear.	1871 Edward Barber, Alanson Crandall.
1855 Lester Crandall, Daniel L. Hall.	1872 Edward Barber, Alanson Crandall.
1856 Lester Crandall, Harris Lanphear.	1873 Edward Barber, Alanson Crandall.
1857 Daniel G. Sherman, Jonathan Larkin,	1874 William L. Clarke, Benjamin Kenyon.
1858 Benjamin Thurston, Jonathan Larkin.	1875 No Election, No Election.
1859 Samuel N. Richmond, Thomas M. Clarke.	1876 Oliver Langworthy, Thomas H. Greene.

If space permitted, it would be but just to insert here, an expression of respect to the many worthy names in the list of Town Officers, Deputies, Senators and Representatives; but they will be held in respectful remembrance by all, for their faithful service rendered. The following minute from the town records is transcribed as one expression of marked respect for one who filled the responsible office of Town Clerk for more than forty years.

Resolved "That the thanks of the town be given to Christopher C. Lewis, Esq., late Town Clerk of this town for the able and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of said office for the last forty-one years.

Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to transmit a certified copy of the above resolution to Christopher C. Lewis Esq."

Mr. Lewis was first elected in 1817 and was continuously re-elected annually till 1858 when he tendered his resignation, which was accepted. During the whole period of forty-one years Mr. Lewis was present and officiated as clerk at every town meeting held, except one, when his son Deacon Nathan K. Lewis served as clerk for the day. Few men ever show such a record. There are others who have well deserved respectful notice, from the town, but, as I find no record, of any public expression, and as space is limited, their record must be made in the grateful memory of their cotemporaries and descendants.



## SECTION 7.

### MILITARY.

The Town of Hopkinton inherited largely the true spirit of loyalty and liberty. So long as the Mother country dealt uprightly with the Colonies so long was Hopkinton true to her allegiance. But when England began to invade the rights of the colonies then she as a constituent part of the State stood for her rights.

By a reference to the minutes of a Town Meeting held February 10, 1774, to consider a letter from a committee appointed by the Town of Newport to inspect into the importation of tea into this Colony by the East India Company subject to a duty designed for raising a revenue in America, we find the following.

Voted, that Abel Tanner and Zaccheus Reynolds, Jun., Esq. be a committee to correspond with the committee at Newport or any other committee that shall be appointed by any town in the Colony relating to the above affair and that they transmit the resolutions of this town to the committee of Newport as soon as may be.

Voted, by this town meeting that we will, to the utmost of our power support the measures entered into by the town of Newport.

Voted, that this town meeting be adjourned until the 17th day of this inst., and that the above committee draw up a letter on the above subject and lay it before said meeting in order for approbation. At the adjourned meeting held February 17th, that committee submitted the following report.

Gentlemen, on the receipt of your letter together with the resolves of your town—our Town Council immediately called a town meeting to take your request into consideration whereupon they chose us, the subscribers, a committee to correspond with you and all other committees on this continent and also to signify to you the general opinion of this town. viz: That the claim of Parliament to tax America without their consent or being represented is a stretch of unlimited power, cruel, arbitrary and oppressive and subversive of our just rights and privileges which by charter we have a right to claim and expect, that the authorizing the East India Company to send tea into America subject to a duty is implicitly taxing of us, if consented to and used among us, will draw along with it innumerable evils. Gentlemen, we are very sensible of the necessity of an association and firm union at so critical a juncture.—a time whose period will determine the fate of millions. We highly approve of the measures you have taken in Newport and think it our indispensable duty to support you in them. Although our situation, not being a seaport, renders us less useful in this present cause but we mean not to be silent, nor off our guard, being confident that this is not the only evil we shall suffer if subjected to it. We are, Gentlemen, Your real friends and humble servants, Ethan Clark, John Maxson, Jr., Abel Tanner, Edward Wells, Zaccheus Reynolds, Jr.

The above letter was approved and the Committee instructed to send a duplicate copy to the committee at Newport as soon as may be; and said Committee were continued as a standing committee to correspond with the several committees

appointed by the other towns in this Colony on the above subject at any time hereafter as occasion may require.

As the conflict with the Mother Country deepened, Hopkinton furnished her full quota of minute men and instituted a strict inspection into the order of their fire arms and other accoutrements to see whether they are in repair or not, doubtless believing that to be forwarned is to be forearmed. About this time a Town Meeting was called to consider the freedom of the negro slaves in the town and their freedom was decreed by one majority which was afterwards reconsidered and lost.

The dreadful note of preparation for war now reverberated through the town: and it was

Voted, in Town Meeting assembled that Captain Edward Wells draw fifty cartridge boxes for the use of the town and that the said Wells have at the rate of one-sixth per box for making the same, and that said boxes shall hold nine rounds each and made in a good plain manner, the covering to be sheepskin and the flaps be horseskin and that Maj. Jesse Maxson be appointed to view said boxes to see whether they are made according to agreement or not.

The burden of war already began to be painfully felt and provision had to be made for the relief of many families whose husbands and brothers had either enlisted or were drafted into the Continental Army.

In the mean time Tories or those who urged acquiescence to the oppressive acts of the Mother Country became so offensive to the Revolutionary party as to require a strict surveillance and Committees were appointed to inspect their conduct. But the beginning of the end was at hand—the birthday of the Nation drew near. The roaring of the British Lion resounded in tones of thunder on the shores of New England, the British Army hung like a war cloud on our horizon. The Revolutionary Patriots quailed not—but.

in the name of the God of battles and of human rights gave their star spangled banner to the winds of Heaven. And one hundred years ago to day as the great bell in Independence Hall in Philadelphia was about to complete its meridian stroke the thirteen united Colonies proclaimed themselves an Independent Nation, amid the roaring of cannon, and the joyous acclamations of 3,000,000 of Freemen. Thus to day, a century ago Liberty was proclaimed throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. How fitting this occasion standing as we do in the Centennial birthday of our Republic that, in that City of Brotherly Love where the tocsin of Liberty rang out to the world that a new Nation had been born—that man child of Freedom that was to rule the Despots of Kingdoms as with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces as with a potter's vessel, how fitting that that City should be the munificent recipient of a worlds progress and improvement. And how fitting that this Centennial birthday of our Republic should be consecrated by the written history of every State, County, and Town in this Commonwealth. God save the United States of America.

To return to the history of Hopkinton. Hopkinton like many other towns found it somewhat difficult to raise its quota of soldiers, and hence had to resort to offering of bounties to secure their enlistment. The bounty offered was one hundred silver dollars by the State, and fifty bushels merchantable Indian corn by the town. Hopkinton bore its part manfully during the whole of the struggle, until the Independence of the Nation was secured in 1787.

Continuing the history of the war power in this town I will now pass down to the war of the rebellion.

The inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861, was made an occasion of the seceding of seven of the Southern States from the United States Government, and the establishing of a Southern Confederacy, which on the 12th day of

April 1861, assumed the positive form of rebellion against the National Government, by the bombardment of Fort Sumpter. On the fifteenth of the same month President Lincoln made a call upon the States for seventy-five thousand men, to serve three months. Rhode Island ever true to the great principles of civil liberty responded to the call of the President through Governor Sprague, on the day following the call upon the State by the President. The first Rhode Island Regiment proceeded to Washington in two detachments; the first, under Colonel Ambrose E. Burnside, leaving Providence April 20th, and the second, under Lieutenant Joseph S. Pitman on the 24th.

The war of the rebellion, which at first was thought by some would be a mere skirmish, proved to be a most serious affair. The armed hosts of the contending powers stood face to face on the field of battle. Seldom before had the world, and never before had this continent witnessed such munitions of war. The note of the dreadful preparation resounded throughout our country. The nation awaited in an agony of suspense the result. The groans of the wounded and the wailings of the dying were soon heard, amid those scenes of carnage on the gory fields of battle. Among those who fell was Davis Crandall, a son of Samuel Crandall of Rockville, he was the first soldier killed belonging to this town. As a fitting tribute of respect to his memory, the town in public town meeting, assembled April 2d, 1862, adopted the following preamble and resolution:

“WHEREAS, Davis Crandall, a young man and citizen of this town, did respond promptly to the call of his country; leaving home and friends to defend the interests we hold so dear, and after having gained the confidence of his officers and comrades, and suffered much in camp has fallen a martyr to the cause of liberty, being killed at Newbern, N. C. March 14th, 1862, while charging the enemy, therefore:



*Resolved*, that we deem it our duty to commend the noble impulse which led him to make this sacrifice for freedom, that we honor his patriotism and earnest devotion to our cause, and that we extend to the afflicted family of which he was a member, our warmest sympathies with the kind assurance that we appreciate the noble conduct of this dutiful son."

The above was as just as it was noble and generous. It was the outburst of those grand principles of liberty which has ever found a response in the patriotic bosoms of the sons of Hopkinton.

The forces that were already in the field proving inadequate to the emergency, a call for 300,000 men in addition to the 75,000 already in the field was made, and the quota that was apportioned to this town by the State was fifty-nine men. The response of the town to the call of the President was expressed most generously to those brave men who came forward and offered themselves a sacrifice on the altar of their country, by providing for their families during their absence, and offering a bounty of \$250 to those who enlisted, which was increased to \$325 to those who would serve for three years, and \$300 to those serving nine months. Other bounties were offered from time to time, showing that the town fully appreciated the services of her soldiers, and that she stood shoulder to shoulder with the grand army of the republic in putting down the rebellion.

On the 9th day of April, 1865, the army of the rebellion laid down its arms and surrendered itself to the demands of Gen. Grant, thus closed the war; Jefferson Davis fled southward hoping to escape, but was overtaken at Irwinsville, Georgia, captured May 11th, and sent a prisoner to Fortress Monroe. This war cost the Union armies 300,000 men who were killed in battle, or died from wound and disease, while 200,000 more were crippled for life. If the Confederate armies suffered as heavily, the country lost one million able



bodied men. The Union debt January 1st, 1866, was \$2,750,000,000, and at one time its daily expenses was \$3,500,000. In all this struggle; this immense expenditure of life and treasure, Hopkinton not only bore her part, but suffered. Out of the number who entered the army nearly one-sixth of that number fell on the battle field or died in consequence of wounds and exposure. Families were made desolate because husbands, parents and brothers returned not from those battle fields of death. May those honored dead ever be held in sacred remembrance, and those desolate homes find a place in the deepest sympathies of our nature by every citizen of our town.

The town of Hopkinton responded nobly to the call of the President. Two hundred and four (204) brave men left their homes, enrolled themselves in the army of the republic and marched to the field of battle; not counting their lives dear unto them while the armed hosts of the rebellion imperiled the liberties of their country.

The following is a list of the names of the men who entered the service of the United States during the war:

Allen, Edwin R.	Barber, Israel A.
Austin, Benjamin K.	Barber, John N.
Arnold, Joseph G.	Barber, William A.
Austin, James H.	Barber, Paul M.
	Bellamy, John.
Barber, Gilbert M.	Bitgood John.
Barber, Jesse H. (Navy.)	Brian, Elisha.
Barber, Thomas A.	Browning, George T.
Barber, Amos P.	Buddington, John.
Barber, Thomas J.	Burdick, Amos L.
Baaden, Theodore.	Burdick, John R.
Bellamy George.	Burdick, Orrin R.
Borden, Thomas B.	Burdick, Benjamin F.
Brown, Thomas W. D.	Burdick, John P. (Navy.)
Buddington, James E.	Burton, Sanford.
Burdick, Welcome C.	Burton, Horace.
Burdick, William H.	Brown, William.
Burdick, Joseph W.	Bentley, William.
Burdick, Franklin.	Burton, Ephriam.
Barber, Matthew S.	Burton William G.
Burton, Joseph C.	Bowers, Robert.

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- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Calvert, William.         | Gavitt, Edwin T.        |
| Capwell, Edward C.        | Godfrey, Henry H.       |
| Chadwick, John W.         | Gorton, Joel B.         |
| Champlin, Stephen C.      | Gray, William R.        |
| Chester, John H.          | Green, Elisha G.        |
| Clarke, Stephen           | Green, John R.          |
| Clarke, William H.        | Green, Jedediah.        |
| Clarke, William P.        | Green, Charles B.       |
| Collins, Gideon F.        | Green, John S.          |
| Collins, Charles, (Navy.) | Gunn, William.          |
| Coon, Alphonzo.           | Gotlieb, George.        |
| Crandall, Nathan J.       | Gardiner, Robert E.     |
| Cundall, Edward G.        | Gavitt, Albert L.       |
| Crandall, William L.      | Harvey, Samuel.         |
| Clarke, Bradford.         | Hiscox, John T.         |
| Covey, Eugene M.          | Holdredge, Charles H.   |
| Congdon, Oliver H.        | Hoxie, Leonard C.       |
| Carmile, William.         | Holloway, William E.    |
| Carmichael, George, Jr.   |                         |
| Chadwick, Evllyn C.       | Irish, Edgar W.         |
| Chester, Albert L.        |                         |
| Church, Benedict G.       | Jackson, Daniel B.      |
| Clarke, Henry.            | Jackson, William H.     |
| Clarke, Leander S.        | Jacques, Peleg, (Navy.) |
| Collins, William Tyler    | Johnson, James.         |
| Collins. Cranston         | Johnson, William, Jr.   |
| Corey, John G.            | Johnson Milton P.       |
| Crandall, Davis.          | Johnson, T. Wesley.     |
| Cranshaw, Robert.         |                         |
| Cundall, Isaac.           | Keech, David.           |
| Church Norris L.          | Kenyon, Aldrich C.      |
| Clarke, Joshua M.         | Kenyon, James G.        |
| Champlin, William G.      | Kenyon, Abel B.         |
|                           | Kenyon, John T.         |
| Davis, Martin.            | Kenyon, George C.       |
| Donahue, Barney.          | Kenyon, Joseph J.       |
| Dervin, John.             | Kenyon, Thomas R.       |
| Donnelly, John.           | Kinne, James.           |
|                           | Keables, Thomas A.      |
| Edwards, Nathan P.        | Keables, Andrew J.      |
| Edwards, James A.         | Keables, Orrin T.       |
|                           |                         |
| Floyd, Theodore D.        | Lane, George F.         |
| Fox, W. Russell.          | Langworthy, George W.   |
| Foster, Lawton.           | Langworthy, Lucius C.   |
|                           | Langworthy, George A.   |
| Gardiner, Nicholas E.     | Langworthy, Thomas S.   |
| Gardiner, George W.       | Langworthy, Edmund K.   |
| Gardiner, John M. (Navy.) | Larkin, Asahel G.       |
| Gardiner, Henry C.        | Lawton, John A.         |
| Gardner, Charles S.       | Lawton, George B.       |
| Gates, Hazard R.          |                         |

Lawton, John D.	Saunders, Nathan H.
Leavens, Lewis.	Sisson, Dudley F.
Lewis, John D.	Slocum, Judson B.
Lewis, George H.	Spencer, William I.
Lewis, Charles L.	Stillman, Horace.
Maxson, Joel C.	Sunderland, William A.
Monroe, William A.	Taber, Henry W.
Moore, J. Warren.	Tanner, Thomas B.
Morton, Joseph W.	Tanner, Horace B.
McCann, James.	Taylor, Peter.
Nichols, Charles S.	Tabor, William H.
Nichols, George H.	Thayer, Charles.
Noonen, William.	Thomas, George A.
Nesbitt, William.	Thomas, James.
Newton, Elijah P.	Tennant, Benjamin D.
Nichols, Charles H.	Tower, John K.
Partelow, Charles.	Vincent, Charles G.
Partelow, Isaac.	Weeks, William A.
Palmer, Henry C.	Weeks, Jerome.
Palmer, Elisha M.	Weeden, Richard.
Palmer, Thomas P.	Wells, George C.
Palmer, William H.	Wells, Horace.
Palmer, Ephraim M.	Wells, John D.
Palmer, Ashur M.	Whitman, Stephen M.
Peckham, Peleg E.	Whipple, Roderick D.
Potter, William C. (Navy.)	Woodmansee, Henry T.
Russell, John.	Wood, Albert S.
Richmond, Samuel N.	Wood, Silas W.
Richmond, George A.	Wright, James B.
Richmond, Lorenzo D.	Worden, Benjamin F.
Richmond, Joseph.	Worden, William H.
Rathbun, Jason P.	Wilcox, Henry B.
Saunders, Isaac N.	Worden, Charles H.
Saunders, Henry F.	Wright, Matthew P.

The following is a list of the names of those who were killed or who died in consequence of wounds and exposure :

Austin, Benjamin K.	Greene, Charles B.	Langworthy, Lucius C.
Burdick, Welcome C.	Gardiner, Geo. W.	Langworthy, Thomas S.
Burdick, Benjamin F.	Gavitt, Edwin D.	Lewis, John T.
Burdick, Joseph W.	Gunn, William.	Lane, George.
Collins, Gideon F.	Godfrey, Henry H.	Maxson, Joel C.
Crandall, Davis.	Greene, Jedediah.	Peckham, Peleg E.
Clarke, William P.	Jacques, Peleg.	Saunders, Isaac N.
Collins, Charles.	Kenyon, Joseph J.	Saunders, Henry F.
	Thomas, George A.	

## SECTION 8.

### INDUSTRIAL OCCUPATIONS

AGRICULTURE.—The surface of the town of Hopkinton is rough and stony, at the time of its settlement it was covered with a growth of stalwart trees, including oak, chestnut, walnut, locust and elm. It required indomitable energy as well as strong muscles, sinewy arms and powerful strength to clear the soil of aged forests. But what cannot man do? those sturdy pioneers of hard labor and muscular religion made the woods resound with the heavy blows of their axes, and soon let in the sunlight of Heaven upon soil that had grown rank beneath the umbrageous shadows of these primeval forests.

Although the town of Hopkinton on account of the ruggedness of its surface is not the best adapted to extensive farming, yet there have been and still are many valuable farms in the town. In the earlier times some of the planters owned very large estates. One Hezekiah Babcock occupied eight hundred acres. Farming has been profitable to the land holder and a source of wealth to the town. To be sure the farmers have had to study economy and to labor in the fulfilment of that primeval curse, or rather blessing, that in the sweat of man's brow he should eat bread, yet the culture

draw it about, ask all manner of questions concerning it; and all such as were privileged and honored by having stepped into it, or sat in it, were looked upon as wonderfully smart. From this incident we will pass to notice carriage making in Hopkinton City.

In 1846, Augustus L. Wells began to manufacture sleighs and carriages. In 1851, he took into partnership his brother Edward, forming the firm of A. L. Wells & Co. The firm has been very successful in their business. From a small beginning it has expanded into that extensive manufacturing of carriages of which the city may well be proud. In 1867, Mr. George H. Spicer commenced the business of making and repairing carriages, occupying the stand where the saddle and harness making business had been formerly carried on by his father, Joseph Spicer. Mr. Spicer's business has become quite extensive both in the making of new and repairing of old vehicles.

**THE TURNPIKE.**—In 1815, a turnpike, connecting New London and Providence, was laid out, running directly through Hopkinton City. This became the great thoroughfare of stage travel between New York and Boston. Mr. Spicer's hotel was the stopping place where passengers partook of refreshments, and relays of horses were provided. To accommodate the amount of travel a number of daily stages were necessary. Hence Hopkinton City and Spicer's tavern became widely known. By the running of this turnpike through the metropolis both business and travel were drawn away from the anticipated city in Tomaquag Valley. But the introduction of travel by railroads and steamboats diverted the travel from this then flourishing village, and the day of travel by staging on turnpikes was ended. Yet Hopkinton City, holding within itself its own resources of prosperity and growth, has outlived the tremendous odds that were against it, and, by the indomitable energy, per-



severance and industry of its men of business, has never known the word "fail."

ASHAWAY.—This village takes its name from the Ashaway river, which meanders through the valley and empties into the Pawcatuck river just below Potter Hill. One hundred years ago, or thereabout, a man named Simpson was the only blacksmith in the vicinity of what is now the village of Ashaway. His shop was on the west side of the river, and was kept up until about the year 1800, when Daniel Babcock established himself in the business, and erected a shop east of the river, near where the residence of A. A. Palmiter now stands. He carried on this business for some thirty or more years, doing general job work, horse and ox shoeing, &c., his sons Daniel, Jr., and Oliver at this time purchased a shop that had been built and occupied for a number of years by Mr. Nathan Potter, which was located on the Hopkinton side of the Pawcatuck river at Potter Hill. They worked in this shop about forty years, making use of water power to do their forging, and by their skill and industry acquired for themselves a good name and abundant fortunes. Since the time, some years ago, that Daniel Babcock, Sr., gave up the business, a shop has been kept open on the west side of the river, at Ashaway, by Mr. Wm. C. Burdick, for general job work. The industrial interests of Ashaway village, and its adjuncts, are invested largely in manufacturing. The precise date when the first factory was built has not been definitely ascertained. Mr. Isaac Cundall came there in 1816. At that time there was a factory 30x36 feet, two stories high, standing near where the present one is located at the west end of the bridge. It was owned by Ira Reynolds and the heirs of Sheffield Wells and used for the manufacture of narrow woolen goods; the carding being done by water power, while the spinning and weaving were done by hand. The whole water power



was only for the driving of one pair of single cards in the manufacture of those goods. Such was the incipient state of manufacturing in 1816, but which has expanded into the large, capacious building now occupying the place of that little factory. In 1819, Mr. Peleg Almy, of Portsmouth, bought, at public auction, Reynold's part of the mill and his house for fourteen hundred dollars. In 1828, Mr. Almy sold this half of the property to Mr. Jacob D. Babcock, his son-in-law. The dwelling house was the one now owned by the heirs of Mr. Babcock. In 1824, this was the only house in the village. Not long after, the property was divided, Mr. Babcock taking the east part of the mill, grist mill and the east dam; while to Mr. Cundall was left the west dam, half the factory, and the largest part of the machinery. In 1846, the mill was destroyed by fire. In June of the same year, the present structure, 34x82 feet, 3½ stories high, was erected. Campbell & Co., of Westerly, occupied one half of it for the manufacture of woolen goods, and S. & D. Smith the other part, for several years, when T. R. Wells & Co. hired the whole. This mill is now operated by the Ashaway Manufacturing Company.

BETHEL.—In 1816, a small building was put up at Bethel and occupied by Mr. William Arnold for the manufacture of scythes, who continued the business for several years, when Mr. Zebulon Stillman came in possession of the property and used the building and power for making and repairing of wagons. In 1829, J. D. Babcock bought the property, enlarged the building and operated three turning lathes, &c., in the manufacturing of carding machines. After a few years, Mr. Rowse Babcock and John Knowles rented the premises and manufactured yarn, putting the weaving out among the farmers wives and daughters. In 1848, the mill was burned. The present factory was immediately built. It is 32 feet wide, 79 feet long, with basement, two stories

and attic. This mill was rented by Messrs. Asher Babcock and Welcome Stillman, who filled it with machinery and manufactured woolen goods.

AT LAURELDALE there is another mill for the manufacturing of woolen or cotton goods. This mill stands on the east side of the river. Directly opposite, on the west bank of the river, stand the extensive line works of H. L. Crandall & Co. The manufacture of lines was commenced in 1827, by Mr. Lester Crandall, one of the honored citizens of this town, well known as an enterprising business man; also a temperance, anti-slavery and Christian man. He died February 1st, 1876.

HOPE VALLEY.—As early, if not earlier than 1778, Hope Valley was settled by one Hezekiah Carpenter. He became the proprietor of that section of land. Mr. Carpenter built the first dam on that stream of water near where the present one now is, and erected works at that place known for years by the name of Carpenter's Mills or Middle Iron Works. His establishment consisted of a saw mill, grist mill, fulling mill, and carding machine. He lived on what is called the Ray farm lying in a westerly direction from the village. In 1778, Carpenter gave to his daughter and her husband Pardon Crandall, the tract of land now occupied by the village of Hope Valley and a portion of the village of Locustville. During the same year Mr. Crandall built the house now owned by the heirs of widow Sarah Arnold.

In 1810, there were but two houses in this village. In that year John Godfrey, Godfrey Arnold, Gorton W. Arnold and others purchased the larger portion of this tract, together with the mills, and in the following year built the third house there, which is known as the "big house." In 1812 they built the Arnold mill on the Richmond side of the river from lumber sawed at their mill. The machinery of the Crandall mill, on the Hopkinton side of the

river, was made from iron manufactured at Brand's Iron Works.

The water privilege and mill upon the Hopkinton side after changing hands several times, in March 1824 became the property of Captain Gardner Nichols and Russell Thayer. The mill at this time was seventy feet long, sixteen feet wide, and two stories high. Mr. Thayer engaged in carding wool and fulling and finishing cloth, quite an extensive and lucrative business at that time. Captain Nichols commenced making tools for the manufacture of woolen machinery. Here was the commencement of that establishment which has been enlarged to that extensive building known as the machine shop of Nichols & Langworthy, the pride and ornament of the village. In 1824 there were but six houses in the place. It is but due to Mr. Gardner Nichols who is now among the oldest inhabitants of the town, that we express our appreciation of his mechanical genius as well as that of his copartners, and the firm's untiring industry and prudential management of their business by which they have secured success. It should be added that in the tower that rises from the top of this building is suspended a bell of such sweet and fine intonation that the ear is charmed with its music whenever it is rung. In connection with this bell there is a clock of such nice adjustment that it varies not a second in its measurement of time. The first looms ever built in this town (six in number) were commenced in the spring of 1826, and completed the same year by Captain Nichols, for William A. & Edward Robinson of Wakefield, and this was the first order for machinery that the firm received. In 1835, Mr. Thayer sold out to Josiah W. & Joseph Langworthy and the firm of Nichols & Langworthy (machinists) was formed. In 1837, Nichols & Langworthy built the stone mill  $70\frac{1}{2} \times 35$  and two stories high. The upper story was rented to Messrs. John Olney & J. P. Arnold

for the manufacture of cotton cloth, and the lower story was used for a machine shop. The firm of Nichols & Langworthy continued the manufacture of cotton and woolen machinery until about the year 1853, when they engaged in the manufacture of printing presses. In 1869, they completed their present brick shop, 240x65 feet, with wing 40x90, which they filled with new and improved tools and machinery. During this same year they commenced the building of steam engines and boilers, in which they have been very successful. The number of hands employed in this establishment, when in full operation, is 150. In May, 1876, the firm completed and shipped two steam yachts, one for the Centennial exhibition and the other for excursions on Saratoga Lake. The dimensions of these yachts were 52x8x3½. Capt. Gardner Nichols, the senior member and founder of the firm in 1835, was eighty-one years old the 19th of March, 1876, and still continues a member of the firm, having filled that position for a period of forty-one years. To-day, he stands before us as one of the most aged business men in the town, with a character and reputation unblemished, unspotted and unsullied; and though somewhat weakened by the infirmity of years, he is a welcome and joyful participant in this Centennial celebration.

Right here, as well as elsewhere, it may be well briefly to notice biographically Welthan Godfrey, the widow of John Godfrey. She was one of the early proprietors of the village of Hope Valley, and is still a resident of the same, having resided there about seventy years. She was born in Warwick, June 1781, and came to Hope Valley with her husband and children in the winter of 1810. She has always kept house, did her own work, and is in the enjoyment of good health. Few such instances of longevity will celebrate this Centennary anniversary. Mrs. Welthan Godfrey is the oldest person (with one exception, Burdick Ken-

yon at Ashville, who is 96) in the town, she being 95 this passing June.

In connection with this biography, it may be well to mention an incident in the life of the late Jedediah Kenyon, another of our aged townsmen, who has just passed away from among us, and become a denizen of that city whose inhabitants never sicken or die but ever live in immortal youth. Mr. Kenyon said that when he was a boy he used to come from his father's (who lived where Mr. Thomas Wright now resides) down to Carpenter's mill, through the woods, by means of marked trees, there being no roads. Well might such pioneers, when in their old age they take their departure from such scenes of progress and growth as they have witnessed and aided during their earth life, exclaim: "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

About the year 1820 the Providence and New London Turnpike was completed. It ran directly through the villages of Locustville and Brand's Iron Works, now Wyoming connecting New London and Providence by a direct stage route which was the great thoroughfare of travel between those places and further east to Boston. Many of the present inhabitants can well remember when the stages thundered along the road, rolling up clouds of dust, at the rapid rate of three to four miles an hour. A luxurious mode of traveling that but few except the wealthy could indulge in.

November 1st, 1866, a new era was commenced in the history of this village and this town. Mr. L. W. A. Cole started a Printing Press. January 6th, 1876 the WOOD RIVER ADVERTISER, the first newspaper published in the town, was issued by Mr. Cole. July 1st, 1874, the first regular train commenced running over the Wood River Branch Railroad, since which time the steam whistle is heard several times daily announcing the departure and arrival of the



trains. As early probably as the year 1803-4 the manufacture of iron at the upper or Brand's Iron Works also at the Middle Iron Works and also at the Lower Iron Works was somewhat extensively carried on and continued for quite a number of years more or less profitable to the manufacturers.

About the year 1818 Joshua Godfrey built a tannery on the lot now occupied by the Railroad Depot where tanning and currying was first carried on by James Hazard. In 1832 Nathan F. Chipman moved into this vicinity and forming a copartnership with Arnold Hiscox commenced the manufacture of leather at the above named place. After a few years this company dissolved. Soon after, Mr. Chipman purchased a spot of land adjoining the present sash and blind factory now owned by Benjamin P. Langworthy, on which was a building and also a water power and privilege. On this site he built a tannery where he carried on an extensive manufacture of leather until 1866, when, on account of a paralytic affection, he was obliged to discontinue the business. His decease took place in 1872. In passing, it is but just to say, as a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Chipman, that he enjoyed the confidence of the community as a man of business. The tanning and currying business was continued by his son Nathan T. Chipman, until 1873, when it was discontinued altogether in the town. For several years this establishment was the only tannery in operation in this State, outside of Providence.

LOCUSTVILLE.—The first dam and mill at this place was built in the year 1814, on Brushy Brook, by Gorton W. Arnold, and was superintended by John Batcheler. This mill, which was very small at first, was enlarged about the year 1820, by Jonathan Hazard. In 1844 or '45, it was burned down, being then owned by the heirs of Charles Low, of Providence. It was soon replaced by a larger mill, which was destroyed by fire in October, 1865. In 1866, a



large and commodious brick building was erected by Messrs. William R. Greene & Co., and is now operated by that firm. The first mill was used for the manufacture of woolen and the others for cotton goods.

BARBERVILLE.—Prior to the year 1829, Lillibridge Barber gave to his grandson, Joseph T. Barber, a tract of land near the center of which, in 1829, Joseph T. Barber built a dam and saw mill, and thus commenced the village of Barberville. This mill was enlarged at different times and at length was converted into a carriage factory. Somewhere about the year 1834 or '35, Edw. and Thos. T. Barber built the first top carriage made in the town. In 1840, the manufacture of cotton yarn was commenced here. The original mill was built in the pine woods, nearly half a mile from cleared land, and the story is told that Joseph Barber once cut a favorite pine tree belonging to his grandfather without his consent, which so aroused the wrath of the old gentleman that in a voice of thunder he said: "If Joseph wants pine trees he shall have them;" and immediately inflicted a summary *punishment* by deeding to him the whole tract. In 1856, Messrs. John T. Sheldon & Co. purchased Barberville, made extensive repairs and continued the manufacture of cotton goods until the 30th of August, 1869, when the mill, while in full operation, was burned.

BRAND'S IRON WORKS.—In 1845, Mr. Pardon Olney erected a mill at Brand's Iron Works, now known as Wyoming. This mill was first used for the manufacture of shingles. It was subsequently enlarged and converted into a cotton mill. In December, 1875, it was burned and has not been rebuilt.

ROCKVILLE.—The manufacturing interests of Rockville are largely dependent on water power to run their machinery. The water is furnished principally by two ponds, known as Yahgonge, Yowgoog, or Yowghghough (neither may be the

correct orthography, or either may be) and Winchhook; the latter receiving the water of the former, and also that of Grassy pond. The water of Grassy pond is carried by a conduit, turning it from its natural channel, into Yahgouge. Further back than the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth, there was a saw mill at the outlet of Yahgouge pond, but the fall is now used for a reservoir for the accommodation of the Rockville Manufacturing Company; and the rock has been channeled so as to leave Yahgouge pond lower than the natural draught, while the dam has been raised higher, thus making a valuable storage of water against a dry season. Antedating any known records, mills for a variety of uses were erected near the outlet of Winchhook pond. Among them were two saw mills, a grist mill, an oil mill and shingle mill, and a carding and fulling mill. The last was owned by Elisha, father of Harris Lauphear. The oil mill was burned more than sixty years ago. Below the oil mill, and nearly in front of the present boarding house, was a factory built by a stock company, and first run by Lewis, father of Elijah Kenyon. Mr. K. manufactured satinets, carded wool and dressed cloth, as custom work for the surrounding inhabitants. In the lower room of his factory, O. M. Stillman manufactured his celebrated temples and other machinery. The factory changed owners on several occasions and was run at times on hire. Among the owners were Burlingain & Cross, Ezra Stillman and Asahel Lauphear. The latter was the inventor of the king spinner, while living in Rockville. Oliver Wells subsequently purchased the factory and during his ownership it was burned. The upper stone factory was commenced in 1844 and was opened for spinning in August 1845. During the following autumn thirty-two looms were put in and run. The weave shop was built in 1851 for a dye house and beaming room but was subsequently changed to a weave

shop and dressing room. In the second story there are now ninety-six looms, and in the lower story are two sets of dressing apparatus and other machinery. The builder of the edifice was Henry Champlin, of Westerly. In 1846, a church was built a short distance north of the village, on the east side of the road leading to Exeter, but in 1868 it was moved on to its present location east of the village.

CENTERVILLE.—In 1846, T. T. & E. Barber erected a building, 84x24 feet and three stories high. The building was subsequently sold to James C. Baker and Alanson Barber who stocked it with machinery. After the building of the mill, a road was opened eastward, now crossing the pond lying on either side of it. That factory was struck by lightning and burned. The present factory was begun in 1865 by C. Maxson & Co., Harris Lanphear and Alva A. Crandall; but before it was completed, it was purchased by the Rockville Manufacturing Company, and is still run by the company, operating sixty-eight looms.

MOSCOW.—The factory here was built by Wm. L. Richmond in 1847. After changing owners several times, it was purchased by T. R. Wells, of Ashaway. In August 1876, it was set on fire by an incendiary and entirely consumed.

BANKING.—The first bank chartered in Hopkinton was at Ashaway in 1855. By request, the present cashier, Mr. George N. Langworthy, has kindly furnished the following relative to the

*Ashaway Bank.*—Early in the summer of 1855, the proposition to organize a bank in the village of Ashaway, was set afoot, and on June 25th, 1855, there was a meeting called in the counting room of T. R. Wells & Co. Jonathan R. Wells was elected President, and Jonathan L. Spencer engaged as Cashier, with instructions to be ready for business, July 9, 1855. In the latter part of November the bank building was completed. The first dividend of

\$2 per share was declared payable on and after the first day of August, 1856. On July 9, 1860, Mr. Spencer tendered his resignation as Cashier and Nathan K. Lewis was elected in his stead. On the 8th of December, 1864, the President, J. R. Wells, was removed by death, and at the meeting of the Directors, held December 19, 1864, Mr. John S. Champ-  
lin was elected President, which office he now occupies. In March 1865, steps were taken for the conversion of the bank into the national system, and the final transfer of its property and estate was ordered August 7, 1865. Mr. N. K. Lewis continued his duties as Cashier until July 26, 1869, when, having tendered his resignation as Cashier, it was accepted. George N. Langworthy was elected Cashier on the 27th of September, 1869, which office he still holds.

*Hopkinton Savings Bank.*—This bank was organized on the 5th of July in 1870. The deposits, as per report of 1876, amounted to \$239,909.59 collectively.

*First National Bank of Hopkinton.*—The following, by request, is from Mr. J. B. Potter, the Cashier of this institution: This bank was organized February 13, 1865; Directors: Amos G. Nichols, David L. Aldrich, Thomas T. Hoxsie, Edward Barber, Pardon K. Tefft, Samuel Phillips, George H. Olney, William R. Greene and Barber Reynolds. Amos G. Nichols was elected President; William R. Greene Vice President; and Joseph B. Potter Cashier. It commenced the regular business of banking May 2d, 1865: capital stock \$100,000. It has paid the stockholders, up to July 1st, 1876, \$99,500 in dividends, and has a surplus of \$12,512.35. . Amos G. Nichols has held the office of President from the beginning. William R. Greene held the office of Vice President until May 17, 1875, when he resigned, and Anson Greene was elected, and still holds the office. Joseph B. Potter has been Cashier from the first organization until now. Since the bank started, burglars have, at

three different times, attempted to break open and rob the bank in the night time, but without success.

PROPERTY VALUATION.—The following is from an old account book : Total valuation of property in the town, in 1795, \$208,319.

POST OFFICE.—The subjoined letter is self-explanatory :

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
APPOINTMENT OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9, 1876.

S. S. Griswold, Hopkinton, Washington County, R. I.

*Sir*: I am in receipt of your late letter, desiring to be furnished with a brief history of the post offices in your township, and in compliance with your request, I append herewith such information as can conveniently be obtained. The fire which consumed the post office building in December, 1836, entirely destroyed several of the earliest record books of this office, but, by the ledger books of the Auditor's Office, it is ascertained that the office of Hopkinton began to render accounts on the 1st of July, 1811. The exact day on which the office was established is not known, but probably during the spring of 1811, as the postmaster must have done some postal business prior to making his quarterly returns. The following comprises a history of each office, as found on the books of the department, to wit :

*Hopkinton*, Washington County, R. I. Office probably established in the winter or spring of 1811. Jeremiah Thurston (first postmaster) rendered accounts 1st July, 1811. George Thurston . . . Appointed postmaster 30th June, 1814  
George Thurston, Jr.     "     "     7th April, 1819  
Francis B. Segar . . .     "     "     12th Feb., 1828  
Joseph Spear, Jr. . . .     "     "     14th Aug., 1829  
Jesse Brown . . . . .     "     "     21st June, 1841



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Joseph Spicer.....	Appointed postmaster,	23rd Sept., 1854
Jesse Brown.....	“ “	12th Dec., 1849
Henry Whipple....	“ “	28th May, 1850
John W. Foster....	“ “	14th Oct., 1857
Willard H. Brown..	“ “	13th June, 1873

who is the present incumbent.

*Ashaway*, Washington County, R. I. Office established on the 26th of April, 1852.

Lyman Kenyon.....	Appointed postmaster	26th April, 1852
Isaac Cundall.....	“ “	14th Dec., 1852
Oliver B. Irish.....	“ “	27th July, 1861
George B. Carpenter.	“ “	18th Jan., 1866
Miss Josephine Austin	“ “	5th Dec., 1872
Alfred B. Burdick, 2d	“ “	14th April, 1873
Miss Sarah F. Blake	“ “	21st March, 1874

who is the present incumbent.

*Hope Valley*, Washington County, R. I. Office established on the 2nd of May, 1864.

John G. Arnold.... Appointed postmaster 2nd May, 1864  
who is the present incumbent.

*Rockville*, Washington County, R. I. Office established on the 15th of February, 1849.

Hiram Arnold.....	Appointed postmaster	15th Feb., 1849
Perry B. Maxson...	“ “	3d June, 1852
Jonathan L. Spencer	“ “	8th Jan., 1855
Benjamin Kenyon...	“ “	16th Nov., 1861
Albert S. Babcock..	“ “	19th May, 1874

who is the present incumbent.

*Woodville*, Washington County, R. I. Office established on the 13th of December, 1853.

Jonathan 'T. Hoxie..	Appointed postmaster	13th Dec., 1853
John W. Hoxie....	“ “	28th June, 1854



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Asahel N. Kenyon..	Appointed postmaster,	25th Sept., 1856
William C. Stanton.	“	“ 13th March, 1862
William C. Palmer.	“	“ 20th Oct., 1864
Sanders Sisson.....	“	“ 15th Jan., 1868
Joseph F. Baggs....	“	“ 16th Nov., 1874

who is the present incumbent.

The foregoing lists are believed to be correct, and each postmaster held the office up to the appointment of his successor.

I am, sir, respectfully your ob't serv't.

JAMES H. MARR,

Acting First Ass't P. M. General.

## SECTION 9.

### ECCLESIASTICAL.

CHURCH SOCIETIES.—Sabbatarian sentiments were first brought from England to this country by Stephen Mumford, in 1664, and introduced to the First Baptist Church, in Newport, from which the Sabbatarians seceded and in 1671 organized the first Sabbatarian church in America. A few members from this church removed to Westerly and there organized a church, the first in the town. The organization was formed when the town numbered but 580 inhabitants in 1708, under Rev. John Maxson, Senior, as Pastor. This church still exists as the first Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist church.

With the settlement of Masquamacutt, a branch of the Newport S. D. B. church was there established, with John Crandall, a "Conservator of the Peace" as preacher and elder. In 1708, this branch, which had been planted in the wilderness, became a church of itself, and was known as the "Westerly Church." At the date of the incorporation of the town of Hopkinton, March 14, 1757, it was the only church in the town and its membership embraced a majority of the residents of the new town. It then became known as "the Church of Hopkinton and places adjacent." At this time a large portion of the membership were residents of Westerly and other towns. Later it became known as the "S. D. B. Church of Hopkinton," and when other churches

came to be organized from it, in the same town, it received its present name. Present membership of the church, 394.

The Second Seventh Day Baptist Church was constituted January 7th, 1835, by Elder Matthew Stillman. There were forty-six brethren and sisters who entered into covenant relations.

July 24, 1835, the Third Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton was organized at Rockville.

January 19th, 1843, a Seventh Day Baptist Church was organized at Woodville.

The First Baptist church of Hopkinton was organized on the 26th day of October, 1831, with twenty-three members. Previous to that year there was no such distinct church organization in Hopkinton City.

A Second First Day Baptist church was constituted at Locustville December 21st, 1841, with eighteen members, mostly from the First Baptist church located at Hopkinton City.

The First Second Advent Church of Hopkinton was organized in the Autumn of 1866, with a membership of seven which was soon increased to twenty. The present membership is about forty.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1845.

Less than a mile west from Hopkinton City there are two Friends meeting houses. Previous to the visit of Joseph John Gurney, of England, to this country, the now two societies of Friends were united in one congregation, holding their meetings in the house now the most westerly. At this time the society divided, one party under the leadership of John Wilbur, a prominent minister of their denomination and an honored and worthy citizen of our town. The other party were called Gurneyites. This society seems to be in a flourishing condition.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—The following is from the report of the Superintendent of schools in Hopkinton, prepared for the Centennial exhibition:

“The cause of education received the early support of the first settlers of Hopkinton; and it may be appropriate to consider briefly the development of this cause from its beginnings up to its culmination in the present system of our Common Schools.

*Educational Facilities before Establishment of Public Schools.*—The facilities for education before the establishment of public schools were few. At first private schools were kept in unoccupied rooms of dwelling houses, accommodated with rude fixtures, not the most convenient. Within the bare walls of these cold but well ventilated school-rooms were gathered the children, the youth, and the full-grown young men and women, with their Testaments, Dilworth's Spelling Book and Arithmetic, Murray's Third Part, slate and pencil, and two sheets of foolscap, goose quill, and ink bottle. In the midst of these groups of rustic scholars stood the schoolmaster, ferrule in hand, ready to rule their writing paper, or spat the hand of the disobedient. The three sciences commencing with an ‘R,’ ‘readin, ritin, and rithmetic,’ constituted their curriculum of study. Yet, with all these disadvantages, many obtained a good practical education. To read the Testament, to write a fair, large hand, to cast ‘interest,’ and to ‘cipher as *far* as the Rule of ‘Three’ in Daboll's Arithmetic, was the ‘ultima thule’ of scholarship in those days.

Such were the facilities, and such was the result, prior to the appropriation by the State of money for Public Schools. And yet many still believe, that under that system of disadvantages more practical benefit was gained than under the present. Most children went to school then to learn; and as they had to pay their tuition, that became a strong

incentive to improve their time to the best advantage. And must it not be confessed that, when the facilities of those days are compared with those of the present, the verdict will be more favorable to the former than to the latter? Then the cost of schooling enhanced its value, and forbade the idling of time; while now the very opposite seems to prevail. Then only the substantials of education were taught, while now the substantials often give place for the mere ornamental. Then the stern ruggedness of New England, that required indomitable toil and untiring perseverance, was well calculated to grow men and women, even from such a soil, while the easy circumstances of to-day tend to effeminacy and indolence.

Such were the educational opportunities for obtaining knowledge prior to the establishment of the Public Schools.

*Establishment of the Public Schools.*—Public Schools were first established in this town in the year 1828. Previous to this time most of the schools were held in private houses, and all were sustained by private contributions. As an evidence of the interest the inhabitants had in the cause of education, five school-houses had been built prior to the appropriation of money by the State for school purposes. Up to this time the town had not been divided into districts.

The following is taken from the records of the first School Committee, by which it will be seen that the first School Committee was probably appointed at the town meeting in June, 1828:

‘At a meeting of the School Committee, holden within and for the town of Hopkinton, on the 7th day of July, in the year 1828.

Members present, viz: Eld. Matthew Stillman, James Wells, Edward Barber, Isaac Collins, Jesse Brown, Nathan Lillibridge, Peleg Maxson, Jonathan N. Hazard, Daniel L.



Langworthy, George H. Perry, and Christopher C. Lewis.  
(Engaged.)

Voted, that Eld. Matthew Stillman be and he is hereby appointed President of the Committee for the year ensuing.

Voted, that Christopher C. Lewis be Secretary of the Committee for the year ensuing.

Voted, that this Committee proceed to divide the town into suitable school districts, without reference to the school houses which are now built.

Voted, that this meeting be and the same is hereby adjourned to the third Monday in September next, at this place, (Joseph Spicer's Inn,) at 10 o'clock A. M.

Witness,                      CHRIS'R C. LEWIS, Secretary.

At the adjourned meeting, Sept. 15, 1828, the Committee proceeded to divide the town into 11 districts, which number was subsequently increased to 13.

From the record of a still further adjourned meeting, we find that Eld. Amos R. Wells, Christopher C. Lewis, and Jesse Brown, were the first Committee appointed to examine candidates for teaching in the public schools, and the following named persons were the first who were authorized or certificated by said examining Committee to teach in the Public Schools, during the winter of 1828-9 :

Dist. No. 1. Nathan York, Jr. Dist. No. 6. Amos R. Wells.

“ “ 2. Joseph Crandall. “ “ 7. Harriet Ware.

“ “ 3. David Stillman, Jr. “ “ 8. George Newton.

“ “ 4. John T. Paine. “ “ 9. Amos W. Collins.

“ “ 5. Latham Hull, Jr. “ “ 10. Thos. R. Holden.

Dist. No. 11. Christopher Brown.

From the further records of the School Committee, we find that the first apportionment of money from the State for school purposes was in the year 1828, and that the amount appropriated to this town was \$329.80.

Here then, in 1828, was the commencement of that system of public schools, with an appropriation from the State of only \$329.80, and with such incipient arrangements as were necessarily subject to great future changes, which has now expanded into such large proportions, that the State now appropriates annually more than \$1,500, while the town raises an equal amount for the same purpose, and the Districts raise, in addition to the above amounts from the State and town, annually from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Justice demands that a tribute of respect be paid to those honorable and honored names, who composed the first School Committee, and the sub-committee for examining teachers. The memory of Eld. Matthew Stillman and Eld. Amos R. Wells is yet fragrant with the rich perfume of the gospel ministry; that of Christopher C. Lewis, as the honored Town Clerk for over forty years; that of Jesse Brown, as a worthy citizen, magistrate, and postmaster; that of George H. Perry as a skillful physician, and worthy deacon of the Seventh-day Baptist Church in Hopkinton City. The other members of that honorable School Committee, though not as publicly known, expressed the wise selection of the town in their appointment to that important office; while every teacher of the present day will sympathize with those pioneer school masters who first passed the fiery ordeal of examination unscathed and unscorched.

*Their Growth and Improvement.*—The development of the school system toward a more perfect system was slow. Like all progress in human arrangements, it has required a semi-centennial season to perfect the germ into blossoms and fruit. The distance between the blade, the ear, and the full corn in the ear, is oftener measured by centuries than by years. But though of slow growth, our public schools have made progress in the right direction. The rough and rude houses, with slab seats, diminutive windows, and yawning

fireplaces, have given way to elegant edifices, surrounded with beautiful and ample play grounds, and internally conveniently and tastefully seated with chairs and desks, and walls decorated with maps, charts, and ornamental pictures, and presiding over all is the teacher rather than the school-master.

*Their Present Condition.*—The present condition of our Public Schools is most promising. With some three or four exceptions, the school houses are large, commodious, and well arranged inside, with modern improvements, surrounded without with ample play grounds. The curriculum of study is enlarged, and the methods and manner of teaching greatly improved. Teachers of more enlarged and thorough education are now employed. The graded schools are attaining a deserved reputation for good order, mild but firm discipline, thoroughness in class recitations. Corporal punishment is seldom resorted to; and those schools which have entirely dispensed with it, rank highest for good order and behavior of the pupils.

The important position our Public Schools occupy, and their relation to the best interests of community, are being better understood and appreciated. The curriculum of study is becoming more comprehensive, and the examination of teachers now embraces a most thorough series of written questions upon nearly all branches of an academic course; while school officers are made to feel the responsibility of their duties. It is not too much to say, that our schools are taking high rank among the public schools of the State. And while there is a spirit of conservatism among us, that may retard for a while, yet the public sentiment of a large majority is towards the highest possible attainment, the nearest approximation towards the perfect.

*The Subject of Supervision.*—Schools, like every other organization, need to be supervised; and few more responsi-

ble duties are devolved upon a town, than in selecting its school supervisors. They should be men or women qualified, either by nature or education, for that important position. School supervision should be parental rather than dictatorial. The entrance to the teacher's position should be carefully guarded by the supervisors of our schools, so that none but those who are competent be permitted to sit at the teacher's desk. For, let it not be forgotten, that every teacher will daguerrotype himself more or less on his pupils. His manner, habit, demeanor, and method of teaching, will be reproduced in the scholar. Hence a most strict examination of all candidates for teaching, both as respects their literary attainments, their demeanor, their habits of thought, their methods of instruction, their system of discipline, should be instituted.

So also each school should be most carefully yet tenderly supervised, and should be made to feel that it is ever under the watchful eye of the School Committee. Hence the wisdom of that statute that makes it imperative upon School Committees to make rules and regulations for the attendance and classification of the pupils, for the introduction and use of text books and works of reference, and for the instruction, government, and discipline, of the public schools, and prescribe the studies to be pursued therein, and under the direction of the School Commissioner.

But a still farther supervision by the State seems to be necessary in order that our public schools may secure still greater advantages to the children of the State; that is, such a supervision as will require a regular attendance for a certain length of time of all children within certain ages upon the instruction of our public schools.

Thus, under the fostering care of the State, and the wise supervision of the town, through its school officers, may our public schools realize their fullest idea of an Alma Mater to

our children.

*School Libraries, Apparatus and other Instrumentalities.*—There are two libraries in this town. The Manton Union Library, of nearly 1,000 volumes, at Hope Valley, seems not to be appreciated as fully as it might be, owing probably to its lack of the works of modern authors. The Ashaway Library and Reading Room Association, located at Ashaway, Hopkinton, was organized by the adoption of a constitution, Nov. 5th, 1871, for the purpose of furnishing to the inhabitants of Ashaway and vicinity the advantages of such a library. The Association furnishes a Reading Room with the current periodicals free to all. The Library contains between 600 and 700 volumes of the latest standard works. The Association also provide for the annual course of lectures. Doubtless one reason why libraries are not more patronized at the present day, may be in part accounted for by the universal flooding of every community with newspaper literature; yet every community should have a library well furnished with the most improved standard works, both ancient and modern.

*Academies.*—In 1858, the enterprising citizens of Potter Hill and Ashaway erected the first academical building in the town; in which a school was opened Dec. 1st, under the supervision of Rev. J. W. Morton as Principal, and Mrs. L. E. Coon as Preceptress, with other teachers as the school might require. In 1862, Prof. Morton resigned his position, and was succeeded by Prof. H. C. Coon. In 1864, Prof. Coon and his accomplished wife resigned their position, and were succeeded by Prof. A. A. Palmiter, who in 1866 resigned his position, and was succeeded by Prof. Amos C. Lewis, who in 1869, on account of ill health, tendered his resignation. Thus closed the school work of Hopkinton Academy, after a struggle of ten years against financial embarrassments, and some want of experience in managing



such institutions. With no endowment funds, and no aid from the public treasury, it had to succumb to an inevitable fate. Yet the school has done a noble work, and many of its students have taken higher and better stations in life, and become more useful, for its having been. Among those who have become somewhat noted, may be mentioned the name of Julia Crouch, author and public lecturer, and others, who perhaps are equally deserving of an honorable mention.

But the days of Academies are ended, and Graded Schools have been born. In 1873, Districts No. 2 and 4 of Hopkinton, and 8 of Westerly, resolved themselves into a Joint School District, for the purpose of establishing a Graded School, and the stockholders of Hopkinton Academy generously denoted their interest in it to said Joint District, for the above purpose. And in the Fall of 1873, was opened a Graded School in this Joint District, under the instruction of Prof. S. S. Scammel as Principal, and Miss Sarah E. Chester in the Intermediate Department, and Miss Emma E. Kenyon in the Primary Department. This Graded School now (1876) under the instructions of J. A. Estee, his accomplished wife, and Miss Emma E. Kenyon, has attained a high reputation for good order and class recitations. Its future is full of promise.

In this connection is deserving of mention the Graded School at Hope Valley. This school also has attained a deservedly high rank. Under its present corps of teachers, Prof. E. F. Lanphear as Principal, and Mrs. Joanna Dockrey in the Intermediate, and Miss Hattie E. Frisbie in the Primary Department, this school is taking a high position. Its future also is full of promise.

At Rockville, there is a school of two grades. The Higher Department is under the instruction of Miss Sarah A. Hoxsie, and the Primary under the care of Miss Lillian Gray. This school has only been graded for the last term,

and therefore has not had the opportunity of time as yet which the other graded schools have had. It however affords sufficient evidence of the utility of the arrangements.

The other schools, being schools of only one grade, give proof that the cause of education in our public schools is making progress in the right direction.

In conclusion, the cause of education, and especially as it stands connected with our Public Schools, is advancing. And the citizens of Hopkinton may congratulate themselves that its Common Schools will rank not inferior to others of this State, at the Centennial Exhibition.

S. S. GRISWOLD, *Supt. of Public Schools.*

HOPKINTON, March, 1876."

## SECTION 10.

### SECRET SOCIETIES.

THESE INSTITUTIONS seem to have enjoyed a prosperous existence, and it is to be presumed they have exerted a beneficial influence on the community as well as on their several memberships.

MECHANICS LODGE, No. 14, I. O. O. F.—This lodge was instituted July 12, 1849, in the adjoining town of Richmond. In July, 1859, its location was removed to this town. In 1874, this lodge built a commodious, substantial building in the village of Hope Valley, which is an ornament to that portion of the town and an evidence of the energy and zeal of its members. The lower part of the building is occupied for stores. The upper part, by a large and elegant hall, most tastefully and beautifully finished and furnished for the use of the lodge. This lodge has had a live working membership for more than a quarter of a century and may now fairly be regarded as one of our permanent institutions. Its present membership is about eighty.

NIANTIC ENCAMPMENT, No. 7, I. O. O. F.—Was instituted March 22, 1869, in the village of Hope Valley. Present membership, twenty.

CHARITY LODGE No. 23, A. F. & A. M.—Was instituted at the village of Locustville, November 27, 1865, and now numbers eighty-nine members.

FRANKLIN ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER—Was instituted at Hope Valley on the 10th day of March 1868, with twenty charter members. Present membership forty-nine.

ROGER WILLIAMS LODGE, No. 2, I. O. G. T.—Was instituted at Ashaway March 10, 1866, and for more than ten years has had an average membership of about sixty. It now has seventy-one members and is doing good work in inducing our youth to take the pledge of total abstinence from the use of alcoholic beverages.

HOPE LODGE, No. 9, I. O. G. T.—Was instituted Nov. 19, 1866, in the village of Locustville, with forty-four charter members, half of whom were ladies. Since its institution it has held weekly meetings for the advancement of its main object, viz : temperance. Its present membership is sixty-five.

HOWARD TEMPLE OF HONOR, No. 31—Of Ashaway, was instituted January 15, 1874, and now, after an existence of two and a half years has sixty-five members, more than two-thirds of whom were formerly addicted to the use of strong drink. These men are now staunch temperance members, whose influence is in favor of temperance and sobriety. Connected with this temple is a Social Temple, in which ladies as well as gentlemen are admitted to membership. It has thirty-four members.

## SECTION 11.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.

THE BABCOCK'S.—Among the worthy inhabitants of the town, and one that deserves honorable mention, was Daniel Babcock. He was the son of Oliver, of North Stonington, Conn., and was born in that town August 31st, 1762. His father died when he was nine years of age and he was left to the care of his eldest brother, Joshua. At the age of fourteen, a century ago this Centennial year, he was apprenticed for seven years, then the shortest time allowed for that purpose, to Elder, also called Dr. Henry Clarke, then operating Ferry's Iron Works, now Woodville. During his apprenticeship, the war of the revolution broke out, and at the age of fourteen he enlisted as a recruit to serve when wanted. When Fort Griswold, in Groton, was besieged, Mr. Babcock and his company started to assist the garrison, but on arriving at Mystic, and having been told that the garrison had, after a dreadful slaughter, surrendered, he and his comrades "wept like children" at not being able to render assistance. And who could have refrained from weeping and shedding tears of holy indignation at the merciless cruelty inflicted on those noble martyrs to liberty. Not being further called into active service, he returned and served out his appren-



ticeship. At the age of nineteen, he commenced a Christian life and connected himself with the First Seventh Day Baptist Church, in Hopkinton. When in his twenty-second year, he courted and married Constant Potter, daughter of George, of Potter Hill. Early in 1784, he established a shop where the Potter Hill stone mill now stands. Here he worked at his trade for about five years, living in the house now occupied by Gen. William Potter. In 1790, he bought the "Polly" Thomas Wells place; the red house corner, where now is the residence of Horace Crandall, and moved there. In 1793, he hired Spaulding's Iron Works, and operated them about two years. In 1795, he returned to his home in Hopkinton and worked his farm in connection with his trade. In that red house on the corner, known as Babcock's corner, he continued to reside until his death in September, 1846, aged eighty-four years. Few men are better remembered than Daniel Babcock, and few, if any, deserves more honorable mention as a manly citizen and a Christian. He served his generation faithfully. For many years he filled the most important offices, conferred upon him by the gift of the people; all of which duties he performed conscientiously and to the satisfaction of his constituency. For more than sixty years he served as deacon. His life was one continual round of service to the people, and his house, like his heart, open to all; a home for the friendless, a refuge for the outcast and weary. His fireside and table were a cheerful welcome to the traveler. His industry, genius, wisdom and integrity lived as a noble example to all who knew him. Being an officer when Thomas Mound, the last man hung in this county if not in this State, was arrested, he confined him in a room in his house during a part of the trial, and until he was taken to "Little Rest." The room in which Mound was confined was ever after called the "jail." Mr. Babcock was the father of

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Daniel, Jr.....	Born	December 16, 1784
Betsey.....	"	.....1786 or 1787
Jacob D.....	"	January 20, 1789
Nancy.....	"	.....May 9, 1791
George F.....	"	.....1795

Jacob D. Babcock was born January 20th 1789. During his childhood and early manhood, he was in poor health and not able to do much manual labor, but was occupied in school and music teaching from his sixteenth year until he became of age in 1810, when he went to learn a trade, for four years, at Coventry, as machinist. In 1812, or in about two years from commencing his trade, he went to Massachusetts to set up some machines made at the Coventry shop. There he fell in with a Mr. Pert, who engaged him to go to Schenectady, N. Y. then called "away west", and establish a shop for the manufacture of machinery. Shortly after establishing there, the war of 1812 broke out and business becoming very poor he enlisted in Capt. Harding's company, "to go when called," but was never called into the field. He remained at Schenectady until 1820, meanwhile conducting his affairs as the depression of the times would admit. He made acquaintance with the prominent men of the town and vicinity, among whom was the venerable Dr. Eliphalet Nott, President of Union College, who was a warm personal friend of his. He constructed the first town clock in the city, which remained in use on the old Dutch Reformed church until about 1860, when the old edifice fell before the march of improvement. In 1820, having built machinery for a cotton mill in Cornwall, Orange county, he went there to erect and start it and was induced to remain as superintendent of the mill. The mill was enlarged to double its original capacity and was tolerably successful under his care. April 19, 1824, he was married to Elizabeth Almy, daughter of Capt. Peleg Almy, of Portsmouth of this State, and re-

turned to Cornwall and remained till 1828 (Harriet E. born March 2, 1826) when he purchased half the property now called the Ashaway mill, and returned to his native State, and in company with Mr. Isaac Cundall commenced custom carding; also running a grist mill until 1831, when they divided the property, each taking one half. Soon after, he bought the property now called Bethel, and converted it into a woolen factory.

Now commenced a series of great trials. The temperance and anti-slavery movements began to gain attention. In Boston and some other places the subjects were being agitated, and societies opposed to the use of alcoholic drinks, and slavery, had been organized. Capt. Lester Crandall, and Mr. I. Cundall, both teetotallers, suggested that an address be given upon the subject of temperance, by Rev. Phineas Crandall. This was like the throwing of a bomb-shell, and great excitement prevailed. Mr. Jairus Crandall and Mr. Benjamin Potter, being at work in the wheel-pit of Mr. J. Babcock's mill, had a *warm* discussion, standing up to their knees in *cold* water; and but for the *cooling* effects of the cold water, the discussion must have burst into a flame.

According to the universal practice of the day, Mr. Babcock had furnished the "grog," on the occasion of a working gathering. At dinner, just as they were taking an appetizing horn, Jairus inquired of Jacob: "What do you think of this new, temperance question?" Jacob replied that it was a good notion and ought to go forward; and that rum was a curse and evil." Jairus immediately said: "What say you Jacob? Let's go down and join." Jacob replied that if he was serious in the proposal, and the subject ought to be looked upon seriously, he would agree to do so. "What say you, Ben?" was the next inquiry. Ben, with his hand on the glass of rum that had been furnished

him, replied, somewhat hesitatingly, "he'd agree to it." "Let's commence right here now," said Jacob, to which Jairus assented; but Ben said: "Oh! let's drink up what's in the decanter, first;" which was agreed to with the understanding that they should never drink any more from that time. Thus was made, probably, the first temperance compact in that place, which soon took the name of "Temperance Valley." The three worthies, Jacob Babcock, Jairus Crandall and Benjamin Potter deserve to be held in honored remembrance for their zeal and courage. Though these men made a pledge between them, they were not the first teetotallers. Mr. Cundall had not used liquor since attaining his majority and had never in his house fostered the custom of society of "setting it on" as it was called. Lester Crandall likewise had been a teetotaller for years and like Mr. Cundall, consistent. There were others, perhaps two or three, conscientiously opposed to the use of liquors as a beverage; but all three were held by the mass of society as odd, stingy and fanatical, while they were often assailed for preaching heresies. But that commenced the temperance reform in this place. The three worthies had not passed light judgment upon the evil, and they were not the men to turn back. A temperance speaker was engaged and a search was commenced for a place in which to give the lecture. The church doors were closed against the "fanatics," as they were called. Acrimony and bitter vituperation was indulged in. Tax payers objected to the school house being used for a temperance lecture. To such a feeling was the excitement carried, that it was thought the church would act in a body against any of its members giving aid to the new movement. At last Mr. Cundall, of Quaker origin, opened his house for the lecture. Quite a number signed the pledge that evening. Among the number were Isaac Cundall, Lester Crandall, Maxson Johnson, Benjamin Potter, Jacob

D. Babcock and Jairus Crandall. It is said that some were afraid of receiving injury while returning home from the meeting, and that mutterings, hootings, threats of rotten eggs, tar and feathers, etc., were heard from the crowd outside, and yet no violence was actually done, but those who attended the lecture were marked for the ridicule and jest of the neighborhood. The discussion took the form of a controversy and the talkers of the band had to take the blows. Mr. Babcock, perhaps the principal talker of the number, gifted with an easier flow of words than the most of the others, being a merchant, and his store the place where the news was summed up and compared during the evenings, and at other leisure times, he fell into the discussions the oftenest. Hence he became the object towards whom the opposite party directed their fury, and it was a hard burden to bear.

About this time Mr. Babcock and Sally Knowles commenced a Sabbath school, much against the judgment of the church and its pastor.

In close connection with the temperance excitement, another, of equal if not greater magnitude, was begun—the anti-slavery agitation. Mr. Babcock was among the first to enlist in the cause of freedom. He became an abolitionist, embracing that heresy of heresies. Mr. Babcock was not only ostracized by his friends (even by many of those who were with him in the temperance reform) but most terrible opposition and threatened violence surrounded him. In 1834, he was nearly as much occupied with the discussion of anti-slavery matters as with his business; he bore the standard of liberty often when he knew no followers, and, persistently too, when he expected the ride to Skimminton and the coat of tar and feathers. Often he passed sleepless nights in fear for his personal safety or for the security and sanctity of his property. One night he left his home late



after hearing threats against him, and went up to his father's house, and called him from his sleep, to counsel with him upon the matter, hardly daring to return to his own house when his interview was ended. When he separated from his father that night, he said he wanted almost to bid him and his family farewell, for he didn't know that he felt sure of seeing him again. If there was no real danger the excitement and threats he heard certainly justified his fears. His name was the jest of the people, and, as if to add insult to mockery, opprobrious names were given to the place where he lived, such as "Jacob's Huddle," "Jacob's Hollow," "Mecca," "Squaw Hollow," and "Temperance Hollow." The last was changed to "Temperance Valley," and became a term of honor.

Through the zeal and influence of Mr. Babcock, the anti-slavery cause gained a strong hold in the vicinity. An underground railroad was laid out through the place and a depot was established at the house of Mr. Babcock, which did a thriving business; and the "Depot Master," "Uncle Jacob," became widely known as a friend of humanity. For seven years in succession, he accepted the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor from the Liberty and Free Soil party, not expecting, however, to be elected, but solely to aid the cause. For, like all reformers, he stood far in advance of the times. Yet, like every true reformer, he had faith that the great principles of human right and liberty would one day triumph. In 1856, he was a member of the State Republican convention under the first national call, and by it was made chairman of the State's delegation to the First Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, June 17, 1856. He supported Fremont, after some hesitation, in the convention and at the polls. But his principles carried this town though the victory came not. Hopkinton was the banner town for "Fremont and Freedom." Then when in 1860,

amid the mutterings of the oligarchy, the people, convinced of the mighty power and gross wrong of slavery, and in spite of the threats from beyond "Mason and Dixon's line triumphantly placed Lincoln in the way of the advance of that evil, he believed that victory was near, he said: "If I can only live to see slavery abolished, I shall feel as if I had not lived in vain." Of course, the question of union or disunion now was first, but close behind that stood the slavery question; he claimed then that as the seceded States had staked their existence on that institution, by it they should stand or fall, and his hope was that by some measure slavery could come to be in the way of conducting the war, so that its abolishment would become a necessity. When therefore Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation he felt that in that instrument the great desire of his life had been accomplished, and his work done. On the memorable night of January 1st, 1863, a crowd assembled around the residence of Mr. Babcock to congratulate him in connection with the triumph that had ensued. Awakened, he arose, dressed hastily, and in response said: "Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. Thou shalt loose the bonds of them that labor under the heavy burdens. Break every yoke and let the oppressed go forth. My joy is that I have lived to see the end of slavery. It is a surprise to me. I never until lately have expected to see it, and now I am almost amazed at the reality of it. I can leave the rest to you younger men." But he lived to join in the second victory of the Republican party; to mourn with one hundred millions of people the death of the greatest president of the republic, and to see the final success of the union cause by the surrender at Appomattox. He died of apoplexy June 17, 1867, at the age of seventy-eight years, fully credited with the glory he won in the days when it was worth one's

life to speak in favor of the reforms he fostered. His house had long been known as the home of charity and the gathering place of good men. Those who knew him will remember him as a true man: keen of appreciation, of fine sensibilities, of good judgement and of broad intelligence, a friend of progress, a lover of republican institutions and a worthy son of his worthy father.

WELLS FAMILY.—In a pamphlet written by Albert Wells, of New York, may be found the following history of the Wells family:

The name of Welles was first obtained in England, during the reign of William the Conqueror, who gave to one of his Knights the name of Richardus de Welles, whose business was to see that the King's household was supplied with bread. From this source was derived the name of Welles. The first mention made of the name in this country, was in the seventeenth century.

According to this historical record, the family of Wells trace their lineal descent from one Nathaniel Wells, a wealthy shipbuilder of London who left England to save his property from confiscation and himself from imprisonment on account of his Puritanic opinions. From this ancestry we can trace the descendants of Thomas V. Wells and Edward Wells to the sixth generation. They purchased a tract of over 400 acres of land of the Narragansett Indians and made settlement in the wilderness which they called Wellstown, situated about a mile from Bethel crossing over the Ashaway river, on the little bridge known as Wellstown bridge. There are many incidents connected with the various members of this family. Among them recorded is one of Mrs. Sylvia Wells, sister of Mr. Russell Wells, whose family had moved to Ohio. She returned to this country on horseback to visit her relatives, and as she was about to return to her home in Ohio, and wishing to carry back something as a

memento of her old homestead, she selected the family looking glass, taking it with her on horseback; such a feat would be among the impossibilities of the present day. Another incident connected with this renowned family is worthy of record as showing the power of that tender passion which is so much the the main-spring of all human conduct. The females of this family, of that day, are said to be very beautiful, which may account for their having so many suitors. Mr. Thompson Wells had two daughters, named after his sisters, Sally and Lois. He built the house at Wellstown now owned and occupied by Mr. James Crandall. Sally Wells was courted by Mr. Beriah Wells, of Lenox, Mass., a young man of splendid address and good manners. His attachment for her at first was very ardent and was fully reciprocated by Sally. As time sped on, a year passed without his visiting her. Not hearing anything from him, she received a proposal from another lover, Mr. Linden Fuller, a teacher in the Pawcatuck academy, from Woodstock, Conn. The result of their short courtship was an engagement of marriage, the time was fixed for its solemnization, and the wedding garments were prepared. After all this arrangement had been made, and the time drew near when they should be made one, who should make his appearance in Wellstown but Beriah Wells, who had come down for the express purpose of renewing his engagement with his loving Sally, and taking her to Massachusetts, as Mrs. Beriah Wells. Here was a dilemma, Sally engaged to Fuller, wedding day near at hand, while the fact was, that she really loved Wells best; how was this matter to be settled? Sally's father consulted with his friends, and after much deliberation, it was thought best that these young men should be informed as to how matters and things stood; and it was finally agreed among the several parties, that the lady should meet the young men with several witnesses.

and there decide which should have her for a wife. They met. Sheffield Wells asked Sally, in the presence of all, what her choice was. Without hesitation she replied: "Beriah Wells," he repeated the question three times, and she as many times answered as at the first. Mr. Fuller's appearance betrayed the deep agitation under which he was laboring in hearing her decision rendered; and tradition says that he fainted, but his bearing towards her and all present was that of a nature which told well, that Linden Fuller was a true gentleman. After a short interval Mr. Beriah Wells came forward, and stated that, under all circumstances he could not marry Miss Wells; he admitted that it was his fault in not visiting or communicating with her during the year that had passed, and as they had the time fixed for her marriage with Mr. Fuller, he feared the circumstances of the case would render his marriage with her an unhappy life for each of them. Here was a worse dilemma. Sally's feelings may be better imagined than described.

Fuller could not now feel like marrying her. So they all parted. Fuller at once dismissed his school at Pawcatuck, and went to his home in Woodstock. Two weeks passed away, and Sally's father sent one of his neighbors to Connecticut with instructions that he must not return without bringing Linden Fuller. The messenger obeyed the instructions, returning the next day. Mr. Wells spent a long time with him, and finally convinced him that it would be for his and his daughter's happiness, as well as that of the family, that they should be married. Beriah Wells was sent for. Upon his arrival, he consented at once that he and Lois, Sally's sister, should stand up with them at the wedding, and that very evening Linden and Sally were made *one*. The wedding passed off finely, Fuller and Wells treating each other in the kindest manner.

A few more weeks rolled away, and there was another



wedding at Wellstown. The same company assembled again, the only difference being in the fact that now Beriah Wells was bridegroom and Lois the bride ; Linden Fuller groomsmen and his charming wife, Sally, bridesmaid. "And in fact," Beriah would often say afterwards, "that Lois was always his choice."

The above verifies the truthfulness of the old saying, "the course of true love never runs smooth."

The historian on this occasion, is indebted for an account of the above incident, as well as for several other items of this paper, to letters from Ashaway, published in the *Narragansett Weekly* over the signature of "S."

It ought to be mentioned that this family was noted for its musical talents, which have been passed down even to the present generation. One of their number was a manufacturer of musical instruments.

## SECTION 12.

### POPULATION.

PREVIOUS to the year 1774, the author of this record has not been able to find any census of the population of the town. In

1774 it was 1,808.

1776	"	1,845.....	Increase in two years.....	37.
1782	"	1,735.....	Decrease " six " .....	110.
1790	"	2,462.....	Increase " eight " .....	727.
1800	"	2,276.....	Decrease " ten " .....	186.
1810	"	1,774.....	" " ten " .....	502.
1820	"	1,821.....	Increase " ten " .....	47.
1830	"	1,777.....	Decrease " ten " .....	44.
1840	"	1,726.....	" " ten " .....	51.
1850	"	2,477.....	Increase " ten " .....	751.
1860	"	2,738.....	" " ten " .....	261.
1865	"	2,512.....	Decrease " five " .....	226.
1870	"	2,682.....	Increase " five " .....	170.

From the above table we find that the population of the town increased in ninety-six years eight hundred and seventy-four persons.

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## APPENDIX.

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THE following was received too late to be inserted in section eight, under the head of "Industrial:"

*Ashaway Savings Bank.*—This bank was established sometime during 1871, as the first report relative to the deposits was made in December of that year. The total amount of the deposits July 4th, 1876, was \$78,968.40.

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